



Jordan Times

An independent political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية مستقلة عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية "الراي"

Moscow announces fresh arms cuts

MOSCOW (AP) — The Soviet Union Wednesday announced it would cut 40 short-range nuclear missile launchers in Eastern Europe this year to encourage nuclear arms reduction talks with the West. Foreign Ministry spokesman Gennadi Gerasimov said Moscow would also eliminate more than 50 pieces of nuclear artillery and 1,500 nuclear charges in Central Europe. He defined Central Europe as East Germany, Czechoslovakia, Poland and Hungary. "These measures are taken by the USSR unilaterally without any preconditions and at the same time we think that this will create favorable conditions for forthcoming negotiations on nuclear (missile) weapons," Gerasimov said at a news conference. The Soviet spokesman said nuclear cuts this year by Moscow to its short-range nuclear weapons (SNF) arsenal would not be limited to the Central European zone. Apparently including weapon stocks on Soviet territory, he said a total of 140 SNF missile launchers and 3,600 nuclear-capable artillery pieces would be eliminated by the end of the year.

Volume 15 Number 4416

AMMAN THURSDAY-FRIDAY, JUNE 14-15, DHUL QAIDEH 20-21, 1410

Price: Jordan 100 fils; Saudi Arabia 1.50 riyals; UAE 1.50 dirhams

Jordan honours Chinese minister

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein Wednesday conferred on Chinese Defence Minister Qin Jiwei the Jordanian Istihsaq Medal of the First Order. Qin was presented with the medal by Chief of Staff General Fathi Abu Taleb at a special ceremony held at the Army Headquarters in Amman. Abu Taleb conveyed to the minister greetings from the King and appreciation to China's people and leadership. The medal, he said, was a symbol of intimate friendship between Jordan and China. Abu Taleb said that the Jordanian and Chinese peoples were bound by close ties of friendship which was prompted by the visit to Jordan by the Chinese minister. Qin said he was honoured by the Royal medal and deeply gratified with the visit.

Qasem criticises American policy

AMMAN (J.T.) — Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Marwan Al Qasem Wednesday criticised the United States for trying to appease Israel at all costs. "Successive American administrations have resorted to this practice hoping to achieve positive results but this policy has unfortunately led to a weak American stand and further intransigent position on the part of the Jewish state," Qasem said in a statement to Jordan Television. The minister said that Yitzhak Shamir, who has now formed a new government in Israel, has now abrogated the Camp David accords after rejecting U.S. Secretary of State Baker's proposals. The minister warned against any disruption of the dialogue between the U.S. administration and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO). "If this dialogue breaks then the United States would have ended its contact with a responsible party, seeking to achieve peace because the PLO has given its pledges to peace," the minister said. The minister said that the closure of the door to peace will eventually lead to further instability and tension in the region.

Job priority for dismissed people

AMMAN (J.T.) — The government will give priority in civil service employment to people dismissed from their jobs for political reasons, Finance Minister Basel Jarrah said Wednesday. The cabinet discussed the issue on many occasions and is determined to implement the decision, Jarrah told Jordan Television in an interview. The minister said he did not have an exact figure of the people involved. The government is considering creating opportunities for all the dismissed people, he added.

Transfers, shuffles announced within PSD

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Public Security Department (PSD) Wednesday announced the creation of the post of inspector-general and named Brigadier Mohammad Anwar Al Bassouti to the post. The appointment was announced by PSD Director-General Fadel Ali Fheid, who also made a number of transfers and appointments within the PSD sections. According to the list of changes, Brig. Izzeddin Zaza will be director of the anti-narcotics division, Brig. Ghalib Zoubi will become director of Amman Police Department, Brig. Fathi Al Homoud will be director of planning, Brig. Husni Alaudin will be director of the highway patrol units, Brig. Mohammad Al Fare will be director of the Central Traffic Department. The PSD chief also appointed Brig. Abdul Raouf Hussein as deputy director to the Amman Police Department.

France urges Israel to seek peace

PARIS (R) — France said Wednesday it hoped Israel's new coalition government would work towards Middle East peace. Foreign Minister Roland Dumas, in a message to his new Israeli counterpart David Levy said: "In a region marked by serious tension, I hope that the action of your government will lead towards a settlement."

Jordan gets 'concrete' pledge of Arab aid

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Writer

AMMAN — Jordan has received a "concrete pledge" of financial aid from an Arab country, raising the amount of definite Arab financial assistance to the Kingdom to more than \$200 million so far this year, a senior government official said Wednesday.

"We have received more than a pledge from a specific Arab country" in line with the decisions taken at last month's Arab summit, said the official, speaking to reporters on condition of anonymity. He did not identify the country or specify the amount, but said: "We expect to receive the aid during the next few days."

Informed sources said the source of aid was Kuwait and the amount was \$75 million in cash and \$65 million in petroleum products. These could not be independently confirmed. However, the officials' reference to the amount of total aid going over \$200 million so far this year appeared to confirm this account.

Jordan has already received \$20 million from the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and \$10 million from Qatar and Iraq has pledged to give \$50 million. Shortly after the Baghdad summit, senior officials said that an specific amount of Arab financial assistance to Jordan was discussed during the conference, whose final communiqué affirmed the necessity to help the Kingdom but left it to individual Arab states to decide the volume of aid on a bilateral basis.

"Now, we have reached the point of discussing the specifics," the official said Wednesday. "The amount of aid have not been totally finalised, but there are very clear signs that Jordan would receive more than it received last year in Arab financial assistance," the official added. The Kingdom received \$360 million in Arab financial aid during 1989, and the same amount is projected to the 1990 fiscal budget. However, the finance minister, the governor of the Central Bank and other senior officials have expressed confidence that the actual receipt would be higher.

Replying to a question on Tuesday's visit to Amman of a senior Soviet envoy who briefed His Majesty King Hussein on the outcome of the superpower summit held early this month, the official said that Jordan was "taking very seriously" (Soviet President Mikhail) Gorbachev's warning to Israel that Moscow would consider stopping the issuance of exit permits to Soviet Jews if Israel did not provide assurances that the emigres would not be settled in the occupied territories.

The Soviet leader "knew the repercussions" of the warning, which was issued in the presence of President Bush, said the official, referring to Soviet-American trade relations. Washington has said that congressional approval of a trade pact with Moscow is

contingent on the Soviet Union endorsing a law allowing free emigration for all Soviet citizens. Gorbachev's position on Soviet Jewish immigration was a "matter of principle," said the official adding that it was reiterated by the Soviet envoy who was received by the King Tuesday.

While conceding that the overall situation in the Middle East was "difficult" and getting to be more difficult in the wake of a hardline right-wing Israeli government assuming office, the Jordanian official rejected suggestions that Israel was poised to launch an "invasion" of Jordan or to implement its plan of massive expulsion of Palestinians from the occupied territories.

"It is no longer easy for Israel to invade any country," said the official. "Israel's experience in Lebanon (during and after the 1982 invasion) has proved it. It would be very costly for Israel to invade Jordan," he added.

Israel will also face a tough task in implementing its plan of evicting Palestinians from the occupied territories, he said. "In 1948 and 1967 (when there was mass exodus of people from Palestine), there was no immunity for the Palestinians," the official said. "The situation has changed now. The Palestinians have grown into a political element and a new dimension, and they are recognised as a people and nation by the international community," he

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Baker assails Israel's new conditions for peace talks

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — U.S. Secretary of State James Baker sharply criticised conditions laid down by Israel's new right-wing government for talks with Palestinians and said there would be no peace in the Middle East if Israel persisted in the attitude.

Using tough language, Baker told the House of Representatives Foreign Affairs Committee that keeping a peace initiative alive required "some really good-faith affirmative effort on the part of our friends in Israel (because) the United States of America can't make it happen."

He gave out the telephone number of the White House — 1-202-456-1414 — and told Israel: "When you're serious about peace, call us."

Baker, noting reports of new Israeli conditions for peace talks with Palestinians, told the committee: "Now if that's going to be the approach, and that's going to the attitude, there won't be any dialogue and there won't be any peace."

In Israel earlier Wednesday, Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir further hardened the government's stance on peace by insisting that future Palestinian negotiators must accept the Jewish state's idea of autonomy for the occupied territories before talks begin.

It was the second time in a week that Israel's new right-wing government had toughened its

preconditions. The new government's policy guidelines say Israel will not negotiate directly or indirectly with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), an apparent bid to bar PLO influence on negotiators from the occupied territories.

The guidelines also exclude Arabs in West Jerusalem from the elections and say self-rule in the West Bank and Gaza Strip will not apply there.

The United States says residents of Arab Jerusalem, where many senior Palestinian leaders live, should be allowed to participate in peace efforts.

Baker said the peace process that seemed so promising in February has been sidetracked by the Israeli political crisis.

"The challenge for all sides is to try to put back on track" that process, said Baker.

For Israel's new government, "that means saying yes to the idea of a dialogue with the Palestinians," Baker added.

"I hope the new Israeli government will be willing and able to move forward with such a dialogue, and do so in a way that makes it possible for a credible Palestinian delegation to participate," he said.

For Palestinians, it means "looking beyond the tragic human losses that they have suffered and recommitting themselves to the political process," he added.

He repeated his assertion to a Senate committee Tuesday that the PLO must specifically denounce an attempted May 30 attack on a beach near Tel Aviv.

Otherwise, Baker said, an 18-month-old U.S.-PLO dialogue being carried on in Tunis "is in great jeopardy."

He added that halting the dialogue could further damage hopes for peace.

Arab states in the region also must do more, Baker said, to "create an environment that can support Israel-Palestinian reconciliation."

"If the political will to move ahead doesn't exist in the region, we are not going to be able to create that political will from outside the region," he said.

"And the sooner everybody recognises that, the better off I think we all will be."

Shamir's new rightist government made clear its priorities with Defence Minister Moshe Arens paying a symbolic visit to Jewish settlers in the occupied West Bank and Housing Minister Ariel Sharon declaring his aim was to absorb a million Soviet Jewish immigrants.

In his first interview since winning a confidence vote on Monday, Shamir said Palestinian peace negotiators would have to accept Israel's idea of autonomy in the occupied territories before the Jewish state would talk to them.

U.N. envoy to visit occupied lands

UNITED NATIONS (Agencies) — Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar is sending one of his senior Middle East experts to visit Israel and the occupied territories in view of his concern over developments in the territories, a U.N. spokesman announced Wednesday.

The envoy, Jean-Claude Aime, might also visit other countries in the area and consultations are continuing with their governments, the spokesman said in response to questions. He did not name the countries.

The U.N. mission was prompted by continuing violence in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The violence reached a new pitch after an Israeli gunman killed eight Palestinian labourers May 20 in a town south of Tel Aviv.

The U.N. announcement came the day after Israeli U.N. representative Johanan Bein said he had extended an invitation to the secretary general for Aime to visit Israel in the framework of a visit to the region. The secretary general told reporters Wednesday

he had called in Bein Tuesday to inform him of the intended mission and that the Israeli invitation was "a very interesting coincidence."

Aime, a senior U.N. official from Haiti with responsibilities relating to the Middle East, was being sent to Israel and the occupied territories as the secretary general's personal representative, the U.N. spokesman said.

"As you know, the secretary general has been deeply concerned for some time about developments in the territories. He felt that in view of his responsibilities under the charter it was his duty to send a mission to look into the situation and to report back to him," the spokesman added in his prepared statement.

The Israeli invitation appeared aimed at pre-empting the secretary general as well as Arab efforts to send a mission under the auspices of the Security Council or of a special General Assembly session to make recommendations for protecting the Palestinian inhabitants.

The United States May 31

Hamas scores in UNRWA elections

OCCUPIED GAZA (Agencies) — Muslim fundamentalists have swept to victory for the first time in elections for the staff of the U.N. Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) in the Israeli-occupied Gaza Strip, U.N. officials said Wednesday. They said candidates backed by the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas) won 15 of the 27 seats with supporters of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and independents taking the remaining 12. The results were a surprise since UNRWA, the biggest employer in the Gaza Strip, has long been regarded as a bastion of secular Palestinian nationalism. U.N. officials said the pre-PLO vote was split between two rival blocs, one composed of supporters of Yasser Arafat's mainstream Fatah movement and the other with leftists. The elections were the largest in any poll taken in the occupied territories since the start of the 30-month-old uprising against Israeli rule. The result confirmed a strong Islamic trend in elections this year in the Gaza doctors' and engineers' associations. About 4,500 local UNRWA employees voted in three separate ballots for representatives of teachers, general service workers and labourers last Friday and Saturday.

Arabs urge U.N. action after Israeli tear-gassing in Gaza

TUNIS (Agencies) — The Arab League asked the U.N. Security Council Wednesday to intervene in the Israeli-occupied territories after 66 Arab children were injured by a tear-gas grenade thrown into a clinic in the Gaza Strip.

"The Israeli government inaugurates its new policy with an aggression with toxic gases against dozens of babies less than three years old and against pregnant women," The Arab League said in a statement issued in Tunis.

The league called on the Security Council to "take the urgent measures required to protect the Palestinian people inside the

occupied territories."

It called on the United States to "carry out a profound revision of their policy of total support for Israel and their silence about repeated violations of international law, past and future aggressions against the Palestinian people."

It also asked the Soviet Union to reconsider its policy in favour of the emigration of Soviet Jews to Israel "so that this transfer of population is harmonised with (Israel's) capacity to welcome immigrants."

A Palestinian group said the tear-gassing of Palestinian babies in Gaza was the "beginning of the series of actions promised by the

new Israeli government to crush the uprising."

The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, led by George Habash, strongly condemned the action. Its statement called on international organisations to "intervene immediately to save Palestinian children and people from Israeli repression."

The Israeli army said it failed a reserve lieutenant for 10 days for throwing a teargas grenade into the U.N. clinic in the Gaza.

Witnesses said six or seven soldiers chased stone-throwing youths into the crowded UNRWA Swedish health centre. They said babies were foaming at the mouth after being teargassed.

Arafat 'rejected' U.S. offer

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — Yasser Arafat has turned down an American offer to upgrade the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue if he explicitly condemns a command raid on Israeli beaches, a top Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) official said Wednesday.

The PLO official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the offer was brought by Swedish, British, Egyptian and Saudi Arabian envoys.

"They wanted him to make an outright condemnation of the attack and kick out Abu Abbas from the organisation, and they promised in return to upgrade

their contact and move its venue to Washington," the close Arafat aide said in an interview.

But Arafat, the PLO chairman, "told them that such a decision can only be made by the Palestine National Congress (PNC) and not by himself."

U.S. President George Bush has called on Arafat to denounce explicitly the May 30 attack on the Israeli coast, mounted by the Palestine Liberation Front.

The group is headed by Mohammad Abbas, whose code of guerre is (Abu Abbas).

The U.S.-PLO contacts began in 1988 after Arafat met American conditions by renouncing

terrorism and recognising Israel's right to exist.

The PLO has said it condemns all violence against civilians but has not explicitly denounced last month's commando raid, in which four guerrillas were killed.

The PLO official said the American offer also included a promise to reconsider Washington's repeated refusals to grant Arafat visas to attend U.N. activities in New York.

He said Washington promised to designate John Kelly, the assistant secretary of state for Near East and South Asian affairs, to be the official contact with the PLO if Arafat condemns the raid.

Moscow to ease Lithuania blockade

MOSCOW (AP) — Lithuania's prime minister said Wednesday that the Soviet government has agreed to restore some fuel and raw material supplies to the Baltic republic, easing an embargo imposed two months ago, TASS reported.

Prime Minister Kazimiera Prunskiene made the comment after meeting with Kremlin officials, the official Soviet News

agency reported.

"There are no doubts about the lifting of the economic blockade. This was stated quite explicitly," TASS quoted Prunskiene as saying after meeting with Soviet Prime Minister Nikolai Ryzhkov.

Prunskiene said she had reached an agreement with Ryzhkov on a partial increase of the supply of natural gas and raw materials to some enterprises in

the republic, TASS said.

She also said the Soviet government intends to review the question of renewing the supply of fuel for Lithuanian agriculture.

Prunskiene was quoted by TASS as saying her republic would carefully discuss the question of freezing the declaration of independence for the duration of negotiations with the Soviet government.

Medicine prices go up after 3-month wrangle

By Ica Wabbeh
and P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Writers

AMMAN — A long drawn-out battle between the Ministry of Health and importers of medicine appears to have entered a phase of truce, with pharmacy shelves slowly being restocked, but with the consumer having to pay higher prices to make up for the devaluation of the Jordanian dinar.

The clouds in the local market over imported medicines were cleared by a pricing agreement reached May 30 between the ministry and importers. Although it is too early to

determine the average price increase for the consumer, the most mentioned figures range between five and 40 per cent depending on the type and nature of imported medicines.

"The picture is not clear yet," said a senior Health Ministry official. "We have cleared around 120 items of medicines based on a priority list we drew up after a survey of local availability," added the official, speaking to the Jordan Times on condition of anonymity.

"We hope to clear another 120 to 150 items by the end of this week, thus further replenishing the local pharmacy stocks," according to the official. "In some cases the prices would go up by five per cent, in

others 10 to 15 per cent, while it could be higher in other cases."

For the moment, the three-month-old wrangle has ended, with Ministry of Health officials viewing the May 30 pricing agreement as protecting the interests of the public and importers appearing to have resigned into accepting cutbacks on their profits but not without putting up a fight to ensure that their gains are not further eroded.

"The agreement, which will remain in force for one year, and the negotiations that led to it had only one goal in mind — protecting the interests of the public and alleviating the increase in prices warranted by the decline of the value of the Jordanian currency," said the Health Ministry official. "The

profits of the importers and distributors have been reduced from four to 16 per cent, and this contributes to cutting down on the logical price increases," said the official.

Importers see the agreement as the best they could get out of the situation, considering that hundreds of thousands of dinars worth of medicine were held up pending the accord. However, some of them appear to be braced for a battle along the way in interpretation and implementation of the terms of the agreement, particularly a four-group classification of imported medicines for purposes of determining the amount of cutback on their profits.

The hike in prices does not mean an across-the-board pro-

fit for pharmacies which may have previous stocks of the medicines of the types priced under the new agreement, the official said. "We have already moved in this direction by keeping records of the batch number of the medicines already available in the pharmacies," he said. "We can easily detect whether pharmacists sell medicines from stock at the new prices. Violators would face heavy fines and other disciplinary action by the pharmaceutical union."

The complexities involved in resolving the basic pricing problem were highlighted by several importers and distributors. There are several "grey" areas in the agreement, which was formalised by a panel of three ministers, three par-

liament members, Ministry of Health officials and representatives of importers, according to a distributor.

"There are over 500 other items still to be priced," said a representative of one of the leading importers of medicine. "We are waiting for the technical committee (of the Ministry of Health) to price them," he added, speaking to the Jordan Times on condition of anonymity.

One of the immediate effects of the accord is expected to be a decrease ranging between four to 16 per cent in the gross profits of wholesalers, according to importers who were involved in negotiations with the Ministry of Health since early March.

"It is the best agreement that could have been reached given the

we know very well."

The PLO's U.N. observer, Zehdi Terzi, told reporters: "The Israeli move is a cheap, under-the-belly blow, because they knew very well that the secretary general will be sending a mission."

"So they came with a mission to appear that it is their own initiative in order to undercut the secretary general and put him in a different framework and a different parameter of action."

Asked if he was surprised by the Israeli initiative, Terzi said: "I am not surprised by anything. When they have a war cabinet in Israel, they can do anything they like."

"But it all depends on the secretary general what course he will take."

He added: "If all these things are simply big noise, we are going to the emergency special (assembly) session on the basis of 'uniting for peace' — a reference to the special procedure for resorting to the 159-action assembly when council action has been blocked by a veto."

Israeli minister seeks to revive canal project

TEL AVIV (AP) — Science Minister Yuval Neeman proposed Wednesday reviving a plan for a canal from the Mediterranean to the Dead Sea that was shelved five years ago as impractical and too costly.

Neeman, a physicist who headed a project to decide the route of the proposed canal in 1981, said that the decision to cancel the project was made too hastily and "without depth."

"The canal can solve the problem of the Dead Sea that is evaporating today," Neeman told Israel Radio. "A big part of the Dead Sea is already desert — the Dead Sea, an area we are developing."

The plan to build the 112 kilometre so-called "Dead-Dead canal" was announced in 1980.

Obviously, the 1980 plan had two purposes: to generate electricity and to refill the evaporating Dead Sea.

Electricity was to be generated by using the force of the water as it flowed down to the Dead Sea, which at 402 metres below sea level is the lowest point on earth.

When the project was cancelled in 1985, Energy Minister Moshe Shahal said the canal would be too costly because falling oil prices had reduced the cost of generating electricity.

Energy officials estimated then that the project would be feasible if oil cost \$32 a barrel. Today the price is about \$15 a barrel.

By 1985, the original cost estimate of \$680 million had risen to \$1.5 billion, and \$17 million had gone into engineering studies.

Neeman, 65, who also was science minister in the early 1980s, said Wednesday on the radio that the government at that time faced financial troubles and mistakenly dropped another important project, the Lavi jet fighter.

"The government then... hastily threw out national projects, the Lavi and the canal. What happened is we don't have either of them today," he said.

The decision to stop the canal project was also involved political considerations. Jordan has said the project would threaten Jordanian chemical works on the east bank of the Dead Sea.

The Dead-Sea canal also raised fears that pumping ordinary sea water into the Dead Sea would change its unique quality which allows swimmers to float on the surface. The oily, chemical-laden water is also sought out by health enthusiasts who believe it has medicinal value in treating skin diseases.

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Fundamentalists capture majority of Algerian provincial assemblies

ALGIERS (R) — Islamic fundamentalists appear to have captured a majority of municipal and provincial assemblies in Algeria's first multi-party poll since independence.

A fundamentalist triumph, following 28 years of one-party rule by the National Liberation Front, is bound to send shock waves through neighbouring North African states and across the Middle East, diplomats said.

Detailed results were expected later but Abassi Madani, spokesman for the Islamic Salvation Front, told Reuters: "It is an overwhelming victory. The FIS is ahead in an absolute majority of the country's municipalities and provinces."

Interior Minister Mohammad Salah Mohammad told reporters Tuesday night that indications were the FIS was ahead. Diplomats and political analysts cautioned that the poll concerned only local councils with limited powers. They said the real test would come in parliamentary elections, now widely expected to be brought forward from the scheduled date in 1992.

"It was more of a protest vote against the FLN than a vote for fundamentalism," said one Western diplomat.

The abstention rate was 40 per cent. Berber speakers appeared to have widely followed a boycott call from the Socialist Forces Front, an opposition party led by revolutionary war hero Hocine Ait Ahmed.

The centre-left opposition failed to make a significant impact, leaving the field wide open for the FIS.

Still the upset victory showed how the Algerian fundamentalists had been able to exploit religious sentiment, economic crisis and resentment of past authoritarian rule — conditions existing throughout the Maghreb.

Algeria is the only Arab state outside Jordan and Lebanon with a legalised fundamentalist party. It was allowed to function in moves toward anti-party democracy after October 1988 youth riots.

The FIS victory was likely to embolden banned fundamentalist movements that appear to have been gaining ground in neighbouring Tunisia and Morocco.

A spokesman for the Al Nahda (Renaissance) Movement in Tunisia told Reuters the vote "would reinforce those who defend freedom in Tunisia and in particular the Nahda."

There was no immediate official reaction from Tunisian authorities, reassured by FLN Secretary General Abdul Hamid Mehri only last month there was a "red line" the FIS not cross.

Fundamentalism in Morocco, where King Hassan claims both temporal and religious authority, is weaker than elsewhere but some 2,000 Muslim activists have police batons in central Rabat last month to protest in support of their movement.

A leading member of the Moroccan opposition Istiglal Party told Reuters, "We are not

dramatising the outcome. The FIS won because of the defection of democratic parties and the success of the Islamists was to be expected in these circumstances."

But he added, "there are bound to be repercussions in Morocco. We will have to wait and see."

French President Francois Mitterrand said France would continue to seek good relations with Algeria, a colony for 132 years.

"France, which has good relations with Algeria, will continue in good conditions with its Algerian neighbours," he told reporters during a visit to Mauritius.

But diplomats said French authorities were concerned about the impact of a fundamentalist victory on French commercial and financial interests in Algeria and on the influx of Algerian immigrants.

There are already some 800,000 Algerian citizens living in France, which has sought in recent months to curb their entry.

Far-right leader Jean-Marie Le Pen warned Wednesday of an Algerian exodus to France after the Muslim fundamentalist victory.

"This is the event of the decade," Le Pen told Reuters in this eastern city where he was attending a European parliamentary session.

"I intend to ask Mitterrand, (Prime Minister Michel) Rocard and (opposition leader Jacques) Chirac what measures they aim to take if hundreds of thousands, or even millions, of Algerians flee to France."

Madani demanded Wednesday that parliament be dissolved after

his party's upset victory. But Madani said the Islamic Salvation Front was not anxious to unseat President Chadli Benjedid, elected for a third five-year term in 1988.

"We are not anxious about his departure. The important thing is that he (Benjedid) is inside the train, and the train of history moves forward... we are not a people that throws away its sons," he told a news conference.

Madani, whose party seeks to build an Islamic state, also sought to reassure Algerians worried that the FIS, if it gained national power, would jettison a multi-party democracy launched by Benjedid after October 1988 youth riots.

He repeated a longstanding demand by the FIS for dissolution of parliament, now entirely composed of FLN delegates and not due for re-election before 1992.

"The dissolution of the parliament is essential... I do not think the authorities... will hesitate to dissolve parliament. The train of history does not stop."

Asked if the FIS favoured a ban on secular parties that favour the separation of religion and state, Madani replied: "Islam will confront intellectually those who are intellectually opposed to Islam. It does not need a political ban."

Madani said he did not fear a clash with the army, whose leadership has taken strong anti-fundamentalist positions. "The army voted for us. How can it confront us?" he asked.

Madani also took a conciliatory attitude towards France.

Israel plotting to kill Arafat, aides

ABU DHABI, UAE (AP) — The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) has received information that Israel was plotting to kill its chairman, Yasser Arafat, and key aides, the government-owned daily newspaper Al Ittihad reported Wednesday.

As a result, the newspaper said, Arafat has frozen activities in African countries.

"The PLO has received accurate information through a number of European and African states on an Israeli assassination plot against Arafat and some other PLO leaders," Al Ittihad said.

Targets of the alleged plot include Salah Khalaf, Arafat's no.2 in the PLO's mainstream Fatah faction, Farouk Kaddoumi, head of the PLO's Political Department, Hakam Balawi, the PLO's representative to Tunis, plus six other figures, who were not named by the paper.

The PLO had no immediate comment on the report.

PLO and other Arab intelligence reports have warned for two years, that Israel planned to kill Arafat and others to cut off the link between the outside Palestinian leadership and the underground organisers of the uprising that has raged in Israeli-occupied Arab territories since December 1987.

On April 16, 1988, an Israeli commando unit killed the PLO's deputy commander, Khalil Wazir, at his home in Tunis. Wazir, better known as Abu Jihad, was the PLO's main strategist and believed to have been the main brain behind organising the uprising.

Ariel Sharon, the hardline minister of housing in charge of immigration in Israel's new right-wing cabinet, has publicly called for the "liquidation" of Arafat to cut the outside support for the uprising.

Panel urges easing of Israeli military censorship

TEL AVIV (R) — An Israeli parliamentary panel Tuesday urged the army to curtail media censorship, saying it extended beyond security issues and bordered on meddling in political affairs.

The Censorship Subcommittee of the Foreign Affairs and Defence Committee, which includes legislators from both the left and right, said censorship had lost sight of its original purpose to guard state secrets.

"Some of the existing subjects border on the political sphere or that of 'public morale' and are likely to run the risk of pushing the censor into meddling in areas in which it has no business," a committee report said.

Palestinians say peace hopes shattered by Shamir government

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AP) — Palestinians in the occupied Arab territories say hopes of peace have been shattered by Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's formation of a new right-wing government.

"So long as this government is in power, the peace process will be dead," said Zahira Kamal, a leading Palestinian activist.

The most senior pro-PLO figure in the occupied territories, Faisal Al Hussein, said: "All indications are that this government will not seek to promote a peaceful settlement in the area. Some ministers in this government seek to seize our land and to achieve political objectives."

Shamir formed the most right-wing government in Israel's history Monday after securing a 62-57 parliamentary majority.

Hardliners in his Likud Party, who oppose U.S. proposals for Palestinian-Israeli peace talks, appeared to be the victors.

Israeli opposition leaders have expressed fears that extreme right-wing elements in the new coalition will dominate the government and steer Israel's policy towards confrontation with neighbouring Arab states.

Arab commentators say peace efforts have suffered a double blow, with Israel's turn to the right coming just as the United States is threatening to cut off talks with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

The mainstream Palestinian newspaper Al Fajr said in an editorial: "Shamir's government will put the area in a state of war, since Shamir rejects peace."

Ziad Abu Ziad, a veteran of Israeli-Palestinian contacts, said he believed U.S. political and material support for Israel only encouraged the Jewish state to spurn peace efforts.

"Likud is more extremist than Labour, but Labour is not more enthusiastic for peace," said Abu Ziad, who edits the only Palestinian newspaper in Hebrew.

Palestinian philosopher Sari Nusseibeh said extremists in the government would gradually dominate the cabinet in what he called a process of "sharonisation."

Ariel Sharon, architect of Israel's 1982 invasion of Lebanon, is a key figure in the new government. He is minister of housing with special powers on the absorption of some 250,000 Soviet Jewish immigrants expected in Israel this year.

Sharon has repeatedly advocated more draconian measures to suppress the 30-month-old uprising in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, including deporting Palestinian leaders.

"This government is a Sharon government under the name of Yitzhak Rabin," said Yitzhak Rabin, defence minister with Likud, scornfully told parliament Monday.

"It is a government of the 'constraints ministers' who inhibited the chances for peace," Rabin said.

He was referring to Sharon, new Foreign Minister David Levy and Finance Minister Yitzhak Modai, who have challenged Shamir's timid steps towards Palestinian elections and imposed hardline restrictions on Israel's May 1989 peace initiative.

May 30 apparent attempt to infiltrate a beach not far from Tel Aviv was carried out by Abu Abbas' Palestine Liberation Front (PLF), a faction of the PLO.

"We told the PLO that the United States was outraged by this attempted terrorist attack," Baker told the committee.

"Given Abu Abbas' membership on the PLO's Executive Committee, we made it clear that the PLO..."

Would need to condemn the attack in unambiguous terms and disassociate itself from it.

Would also need to begin to take steps to discipline Abu Abbas to show unmistakably that the PLO does not countenance this kind of activity and will live up to its commitments."

To date, the PLO's public and private responses have fallen short of the mark," Baker said.

"We take note that the PLO official statements have disassociated the PLO from the May 30 attack," Baker said. "But neither the May 31 statement in Baghdad, issued after the executive committee meeting, nor Monday's statement condemned the PLF attack in its own right. And moreover, they give no indication that the PLO intends to begin to take steps to discipline Abu Abbas, who organised the operation," he said.

When he was in Europe last week, Baker told the foreign ministers of the United Kingdom, France, Sweden, the Netherlands and Turkey that the United States "viewed this situation very, very seriously and that if the PLO did not act, it would be very difficult for us to sustain this dialogue."

"I told (foreign) Minister (Edward) Shevardnadze of the Soviet Union the same thing while in Europe and I have telephoned Foreign Minister (Esamat) Abdul Meguid of Egypt to the same effect," Baker told the committee. "Each and every one of these ministers responded by saying that they would go to the PLO and urge it to take steps to condemn this act and to disassociate from it."

When the PLO accepted U.S. conditions for dialogue in December 1988, the secretary said,

ment and steer Israel's policy towards confrontation with neighbouring Arab states.

Arab commentators say peace efforts have suffered a double blow, with Israel's turn to the right coming just as the United States is threatening to cut off talks with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

The mainstream Palestinian newspaper Al Fajr said in an editorial: "Shamir's government will put the area in a state of war, since Shamir rejects peace."

Ziad Abu Ziad, a veteran of Israeli-Palestinian contacts, said he believed U.S. political and material support for Israel only encouraged the Jewish state to spurn peace efforts.

"Likud is more extremist than Labour, but Labour is not more enthusiastic for peace," said Abu Ziad, who edits the only Palestinian newspaper in Hebrew.

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U.S. ready to resume military training aid to Lebanon

WASHINGTON (USIA) — The United States has agreed in principle to resume military training assistance to Lebanon, U.S. Ambassador to Lebanon John McCarthy said June 12.

McCarthy met with reporters at the State Department to discuss his recent meeting in Cairo with President Elias Hrawi and Prime Minister Selim Hoss. The ambassador said he relayed a "personal message of support" from President Bush and Secretary of State James Baker to the Lebanese leaders during their meeting.

The resumption of military assistance to the Lebanese army is one expression of U.S. support to the government of Lebanon, the ambassador noted. Military assistance would be provided in the form of training Lebanese officers in the United States, he said.

The Lebanese debt situation, however, is a "technical impediment" to the resumption of military assistance, McCarthy said.

Lebanon is in arrears to the U.S. Agency for International Development (AID), which guaranteed two commercial loans to Lebanon of about \$30 million each, McCarthy explained. These loans "need to be brought current" before the United States can resume military assistance in accordance with congressional legislation, he noted.

Lebanon will have to pay about \$9 million in interest and some principal in order to meet the requirement to resume military aid, he said. Hrawi assured him during their meeting that "Lebanon is ready to pay" and that "he would resolve the matter," McCarthy said.

Once military training assistance is restored, the United States will look at "additional steps," such as the provision of trucks and other needed military equipment, McCarthy said.

Hrawi is making progress in Lebanon "against strong odds," McCarthy said.

McCarthy said. The Hrawi government is gradually "asserting its authority," he said, adding that "when the process has been furthered," the United States will be ready to resume its diplomatic presence in Lebanon.

The internal situation in Lebanon is also gradually improving, McCarthy asserted. "Bit by bit the internal opposition to the Taif agreement and the Hrawi government is disappearing," he said. A steady growth of support for Hrawi "has taken place over the last several months," he added.

"The single exception" to this situation is General Michel Aoun, who is still holding out against the Hrawi government, the ambassador said. Aoun has "become an obstacle to the attainment" of the objective he is fighting for — the withdrawal of foreign troops from Lebanese territory, McCarthy said. The United States hopes Aoun "will come to this conclusion and remove himself as the obstacle to

the withdrawal of Syrian troops," and the implementation of the Taif Accord, he said.

He noted that General Aoun and Samir Geagea are both in possession of weapons the Hrawi government would like returned to the Lebanese army "as soon as possible."

"Hrawi wants an army that can do what he was elected to do — put Lebanon back together," the ambassador said.

Once these weapons "are made available to the Lebanese army" the government "will be able to provide security in the south," which will expedite the withdrawal of Israeli troops, McCarthy said.

The ambassador said the Israelis have "no desire to remain in Lebanon any longer than necessary to protect their territory. As soon as they are certain South Lebanon will not be used as a base to attack them, they will go."

Lebanon

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Security to top Turkish-Syrian talks agenda

ANKARA (R) — Turkey, incensed by the deadliest raid by Kurdish guerrillas in two years, said Wednesday that border security would top its agenda in meeting this week between the Syrian and Turkish foreign ministers.

A dispute with Syria and Iraq over the sharing of water from the Euphrates River would not be open to negotiation during a three-day visit by Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Al Shara starting Thursday, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said.

"We will bring (frontier) security to the talks with priority and in detail," ministry spokesman Murat Sungar said.

"We do not see the Euphrates

waters as an issue with a place in the political framework," he added.

Turkey has tacitly accused Iraq, Syria and Iran of tolerating the presence on their soil of guerrillas of the outlawed Marxist Kurdish Workers Party (PKK) who launch raids across the frontiers into southeastern Turkey.

Kurdish guerrillas killed 27 people, including 12 children and seven women, last Sunday in an attack on a village 50 kilometres north of the Iraqi and Syrian borders. Officials said it was the deadliest PKK raid since 1988.

The PKK's six-year-old campaign for autonomy has claimed nearly 2,250 lives in the south-

east, borne to most of Turkey's estimated 10 million Kurdish-speakers.

Turkish leaders have said they will not use the Euphrates waters as political leverage but Ankara has asked Syria, Iraq and Iran to clamp down on cross-border forays by the PKK.

"The waters issue is peculiar to itself. It should not be linked to any other topic," Sungar said.

Syria and Iraq complained bitterly last January, saying agriculture and power generation were harmed severely, when Ankara diverted the vital waters of the Euphrates for a month to fill a huge man-made lake behind its new Ataturk Dam.

Turkey claims it more than made up for the 30-day cut by increasing the flow of water to Syria and Iraq above agreed levels before the Euphrates was diverted.

Syria has yet to reply to Turkey's invitation for a ministerial meeting including Iraq to discuss the waters issue in Ankara on June 26-27. Sungar said he believed the delay was a matter of matching ministers' schedules.

"For us the platform to discuss the waters is the tripartite technical committee of ministers. If the Syrian foreign minister brings it up, we shall give him our often-repeated views," Sungar said.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 77311-19

PROGRAMME ONE

15:30 Korea
15:40 Programme review
15:45 Children's programme
17:10 Book of Adventure
18:00 World Cup: "Yugoslavia vs. Colombia"

19:30 Programme review
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Local series
21:30 Programme review
21:40 Local programme
22:20 Arabic film
23:00 News in Arabic

PROGRAMME TWO

17:45 Molierism
18:10 Des Chiffres et de lettres
18:30 La Chanson aux chansons
19:00 News in French
19:15 Varieties
19:30 News in Hebrew
19:45 Varieties
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Different world
20:55 Dolphin Cove
21:45 World Cup: "Italy vs. U.S.A."

22:20 Feature film: "Little White Lies"

PRAYER TIMES

6:30 Fajr
12:30 (Sunset) Dhuhr
16:16 Asr
19:47 Maghreb
21:22 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swedish Tel. 810740

Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632783

St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440

De la Salle Church Tel. 661757

Terrace Church Tel. 623566

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541

Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel. 628543

Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 713531

Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261

St. Ephraim Church Tel. 717571

Assiout International Church Tel. 627981, 683226

Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811295

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 815817 and 654932

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

It will be fair and winds will be northerly moderate, causing dust in desert areas. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

Amman Min./max. temp. 18 / 31

Aqaba 22 / 37

Beit 20 / 36

Jordan Valley 21 / 31

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 30, Aqaba 37. Humidity readings: Amman 51 per cent, Aqaba 23 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMBULANCE:
Dr. Youssef Al Faghi 657909
Dr. Amin Abdul Jabbar 614222
Dr. Tayseer Khader yem 608857
Dr. George Sabouni 776751
First pharmacy 681912
Ferdom pharmacy 778336
Al Asmaa pharmacy 637055
Nairook pharmacy 632672
Al Salam pharmacy 636730
Yasoon pharmacy 644945
Shuqran pharmacy 637660

EMERGENCIES

Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Immediate 630341
Rescue 199
Civil Defence Emergency 630321
Fire Brigade 821228
Blood Bank 7

67 schools to be built in 1990

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Cabinet has approved the construction of 67 school buildings as a first stage of a school building programme which entails setting up 180 schools till 1992, Minister of Education and Higher Education Mohammad Hamdan announced Wednesday.

Altogether, a total of 67 schools will be constructed during 1990 and the ministry has already announced tenders for the construction of eight of them, the minister said in a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

The minister said that the construction of the schools will be financed through two loans from the World Bank and the Japanese government, together totalling \$14.5 million.

The total cost of the 30 schools amounts to \$12 million, he added.

According to the programme, the ministry will first build schools in areas where the plan requires leaving rented school

buildings and those unsuitable as schools or incapable of coping with the increasing numbers of students," Hamdan pointed out.

He said that the provision of sufficient numbers of schools will help the ministry put a stop to the present two-shift school system and the construction work will help find employment for many job seekers.

According to the minister, a total of 100 school buildings are now under construction and 40 have already been completed and handed over to the ministry. He said that students will use these 40 schools at the start of the coming scholastic year.

Ministry of Education officials said that the construction of schools in Jordan is being implemented in three stages, in accordance with a plan endorsed by the 1987 educational conference. They said that the government now owns, 2,591 school buildings of which 585 are rented.

Journalists have a role to play in tourism — Kabariti

By Lima Nabli
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A society to be known as "friends of tourism among Jordanian journalists" will be set up soon to promote Jordanian journalists' work for the benefit of the tourism industry in Jordan, according to Minister of Tourism Abdul Karim Kabariti.

The minister told the Jordan Times that the Ministry of Tourism had intensified contacts with local journalists in the last four months with view to enlisting their help in promoting the marketing of Jordan's tourist attractions here and abroad.

"This summer, the Kingdom is expected to witness an influx of tourists, with a large number of Arab visitors to the Kingdom coming from the Arab Coopera-

tion Council (ACC) countries," Kabariti said.

He said that the ACC countries have recently concluded an agreement for cancelling visas for ACC countries nationals visiting any of the four states.

Cancelling the departure tax and fees imposed on vehicles from ACC countries entering any of the four states is done provided that reciprocal measures are taken by the other member states, the minister said.

The agreement, he said, is expected to boost tourism among Egypt, Iraq, Yemen and Jordan.

As a result of the agreement, nearly 60,000 Iraqi citizens will come to Jordan during the current month, Kabariti added.

Kabariti also reported that Jordan had reached several agreements, with countries in Europe and south east Asia, designed to market Jordanian tourist attractions.

Referring to the Jerash festival of arts and culture, Kabariti said it will take place next month, on schedule, and there will be additional numbers of folk troupes participating in the cultural and recreational programmes.

The minister complained that the present laws do not provide for strong deterring measures and penalties against stealing or trading in stolen artefacts and antiquities. He said the Ministry of Tourism was seeking an amendment to the law.

He said there are more than 5,000 archaeological sites in the Kingdom, but that excavations have only been conducted at 300 sites.

Research throws light into crime motives

By Saeda Kilani
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Robberies in Jordan are not only an occurrence with poor people, but with all layers of society, including the "higher class", according to researchers and participants at a seminar held at the Royal Cultural Centre on "Crime and Society".

Amazing results concerning the age and modern techniques used as well as circumstances of criminals involved in robberies in Jordan were revealed by the researchers at the seminar.

"At the beginning, I thought it was a sole minor incident, but then it came out that most of the robbery cases were carried out by minors who come from relatively rich classes," said an owner of a large food and clothes store. "It really shocked me but we were incapable of doing anything so as not to defame some families' reputation," he said.

The real motives behind such robberies are not really based on materialistic objectives; it may be due to the children's "spiritual void" that the parents and society are unable to fulfill, according to specialists in the field and participants in the seminar.

Dr. Surry Naser, a sociology professor at the University of Jordan, raised the point of parental ignorance of the correct methods of raising their children.

"We always want our children to be rich and successful, but we never tell them how. What they understand is that they ought to become wealthy no matter what methods they may use," he explained.

Stealing for pleasure or even "revenge" or "adventure" were also behind some of the thefts, according to a research by Dr. Khalil Darwish on cases in different rehabilitation centres in Jordan. The study underlined the unemployment situation and the difficulty to find a job as a factor which constituted 37.2 per cent of motives for robberies.

The unfulfilled desires and needs of the individuals may prompt him or her to use illegal means to satisfy basic necessities, according to a research carried out by Dr. Sahri Rubelhat, a criminologist at the Public Security Department. Preventive measures must be based on fulfilling these people's needs and meeting their aspirations, exploiting their energies by finding them better opportunities in work, training and guiding them, the researcher recommended.

The "bad company" that influences adolescents as well as adults comes next, constituting 18.6 per cent of motives for robberies. It is followed with 17.9 per cent by those who claim that it was due to the absence of any guidance from their parents or others.

The large size of the family was seen by many participants as well as the researcher as an important factor leading to crime, including robbery. Almost 80 per cent of Darwish's survey target have more than six members in their families indicating that no special attention was given to each member, who also did not having equal supervision or guidance from their parents.

Also, Rubelhat pointed out on his research to the relation

between social bond and deviation. Several factors such as the emotional relationship between the child and his parents, the individual's preoccupation with future plans, his commitment to them, and his participation in social activities lessens chances of deviation. Yet, ways of abolishing crimes and juvenile delinquency are based on voluntary work enhancing group efforts to lessen juvenile delinquency and this must be done through public organisations and through the parents themselves.

"We need to raise awareness among the public, especially the parents and all social workers to minimise chances of deviation and juvenile delinquency," explained Naela Rnsheidat, a lawyer. "We can't deny that the economic situation is getting worse and this must make us unify our efforts towards eliminating the causes, and not discourage us."

"What is really worthwhile noticing is the children's violent methods and aggressiveness in ways of carrying out their crimes" explained one of the female participants. "This indicates that our children are heading towards using violence, therefore our main concern must be based on the education of our children."

While, robbery cases which amounted to 4,305 in 1987, are still low in comparison with other countries. Participants, as well as lecturers stressed out the fact that it is gradually increasing and spreading among different classes and age groups and may cause major problems.

Packaging helps marketing-seminar

By Nur Satti
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Package designing for export purposes is an evolutionary process because "produce handling systems and techniques, market conditions and requirements are constantly changing."

For this purpose, the Agricultural Marketing Development Project of the Agricultural Marketing Organisation (AMO), held a seminar Wednesday, concerning "principles and practices of fresh produce packaging" and "packing techniques for Jordan's eight most exportable 'fruits and vegetables' both issues tackling ideas of how to design and pack a box in the most suitable way for the current market conditions."

Jordan's weakest point in marketing produce is seen to be in the form of packaging, according to a study conducted by United States Agency for International Development (USAID) over a year, and a staff. However, Dr. Devon Zagory, a professional consultant specialising in fresh produce packaging, who has been in the Kingdom for three weeks, believes that Jordan is starting to experience a rapid increase in exports and so far, he sees many elements coming together which make way for better opportunities for Jordan.

For a start, climate and location place Jordan at an advantage over other countries of the region. "This, coupled with the relatively cheap labour costs when compared to potential competitors, set Jordan in a

position where it can exploit the lucrative, and still growing, European market for off season fruits and vegetables," Zagory affirms.

Additionally, manufacturers of cardboard boxes have newly acquired machinery destined to enhance the quality of packaging. The devaluation of the dinar has created a suitable atmosphere for Jordanians to export competitively.

This programme, organised by AMO, has increased the level of understanding and knowledge for overseas markets, he adds. "Together, these conditions are beneficial to further increase exports and high quality products."

Jordan has the potential to increase its value of exports up to \$500 million within the coming five years from the current figure of \$150 million, according to Zagory. If Jordan adopts the proposed design for boxes and becomes more systematic in terms of packaging, Jordan's potential could amount to ten times the current value of exports.

Zagory, who spoke at the seminar, highlighted the ideal designs for packing purposes and the type of crate that should be used for different fruits and vegetables. "Although table grapes are often packed in wooden crates or polystyrene boxes, for Jordan, cardboard cartons of adequate strength and low enough costs would be the preferred design for the European, Gulf, and local markets," he explained.

Cardboard boxes are very effective because they maintain moisture, they are cool

and disposable. On the other hand, wooden boxes are heavy and therefore not feasible for airfreight transport, another characteristic is that they are abrasive and therefore damage the commodity. They are also difficult to dispose of. "Polystyrene is the worst. Once you have it you can never get rid of it," Zagory says.

Zagory next pinpointed the best conditions for packaging: "It is important to consider how that package will fit into the broader handling system so that the maximum benefit can be derived from the design features." Several factors should be considered in order to attain high quality packaged fruits or vegetables.

He explained that after the moment of harvest, fruits and vegetables begin to lose quality. Each commodity has a form of deterioration that differs from another fruit or vegetable. "An adequate understanding of this is essential when trying to reduce the rate of quality deterioration."

Other issue that were tackled concerning the make-up of a better package were the size. Each market has put a constraint on size. So knowing the preferred box size of that market is important. Here, Zagory came up with a suggestion; since every market requires quality standards and classification for certain sizes, quality, and defects that are allowed, Jordan for example, should adopt the same standard and label the boxes on their own instead of having them labelled and inspected after the commodity is exported. "This means that the

exporters are meeting the standards and requirements beforehand therefore further inspection and classification from the buyers end is not necessary. In this way the buyers will come to believe in the label and the products will be on higher demand."

"Box weakness also have been a consistent problem in the past." The exporters should estimate the strength requirements, calculate the size, material type and the configuration for each box type necessary to supply the adequate strength to the box.

A box should also be designed to enable proper cooling and temperature maintenance of the product. "It is also useful to know that sulfur dioxide emitting pads are commonly used with table grapes to prevent fungal decay during transport."

Zagory explained in detail the packaging process and its consequences if the proper package design were not implemented. He also presented a slide show in order to point out the different principles that steer towards a suitable package design.

"The purpose of this seminar was to set the stage for Jordan's exports by presenting a common vocabulary and perspective through which we can better evaluate our current package use, and help make informed decisions about our future packages," Zagory said.

"There is hope to coordinate between AMO and the Jordanian exporters in establishing common goals for packaging and enhance the lines of communication," Zagory added.

Yarmouk University to graduate students

IRBID (J.T.) — Yarmouk University in Irbid will graduate its 11th batch of students on Thursday at a ceremony to be held under the patronage of His Majesty King Hussein.

A total of 2,738 students, who completed courses in the science, arts, education and business will graduate at a major celebration which will be held at the Irbid Municipality stadium.

A university spokesman said that with the graduation of the latest batch, the university will have graduated 21,000 since its establishment in 1975.

"When it was opened in October 1975, Yarmouk University had only 640 students, growing into 11,500 in the 1989-90 academic year," the spokesman said.

Another ceremony will be held at the University of Jordan on June 18 under Royal patronage for the graduation of 512 post-graduate various.

The university has worked out a programme of ceremonies for graduating a total of 3,512 students from various faculties this year and the diplomas will be handed to the graduates by University President Mahmoud Al Samra.

Jubilant soccer enthusiast dies of heart attack

RAMTHA (J.T.) — A Jordanian soccer enthusiast, aged 25, died here of a heart attack upon watching the Egyptian soccer team scoring a goal in Tuesday evening's match against the Netherlands, held in Palermo, Italy.

Jalal Omar was overexcited by the match and the scoring of the goal; he suffered a heart attack, according to a government hospital source here.

The source said that Omar, owner of a video tape store was pronounced dead upon arrival at the hospital.

The game ended with a 1-1 draw. The outcome of the game triggered jubilation in Egypt and other Arab states. The news of the draw, captured front page headlines in newspapers in Egypt, Kuwait and other countries. (see related story page 7).

WHAT'S GOING ON EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Exhibition of paintings depicting the Jordanian environment by Adel Al Sharra, Mohammed Assad and Hani Khazm'leh at the Housing Bank Art Gallery.
- ★ Art exhibition by Rafiq Al Laham at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ Exhibition entitled "La revolution: 200 ans apres" at the French Cultural Centre.
- ★ "Amman 90" photo exhibition at Amman Municipality public library.

TURKISH FILM WEEK

- ★ Documentary film entitled "The Art of the Anatolian Seljuks" at the Royal Cultural Centre — 8:00 p.m.

CONCERT

- ★ Concert by "Magic Mushrooms and the Mechanics" at the Palace of Culture, Al Hussein Youth City — 7:30 p.m.

Jordan Syria discuss cooperation in education

DAMASCUS (Petra) — A joint Jordanian-Syrian committee opened a two-day meeting here to discuss developing cooperation between the two countries in educational affairs.

The Jordanian side to the meeting is led by Dr. Munther Al Masri, the Ministry of Education's secretary-general, who said in a statement that the joint committee will discuss the implementation of an agreement on cooperation in the fields of school curricula, examinations and various educational affairs and activities.

13 out of 10,000 Jordanians drug addicts

AMMAN (Petra) — A working paper on motives for suicide in Jordan presented at a two-day symposium on "Crime and Society" in the Kingdom revealed that nearly two persons in every 10,000 commit suicide in the country.

The paper, presented by Dr. Walid Sarhan, said that according to Public Security Department (PSD) statistics, 48 people in the Kingdom committed suicide in 1987 and those involved were mostly males, 15 to 35 years of age.

The paper attributed the suicide to unemployment, bitterness due to professional failure and living in isolation.

Another paper presented at the meeting tackled the question of drugs and drug addiction.

ACC ministries of energy to strengthen cooperation

AMMAN (J.T.) — A team of technicians and engineers employed by ministries of energy and electricity in the four-member Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) countries will open a three-day meeting in Amman Thursday to pave the ground for their ministers' meeting Sunday.

Manufacturing spare parts for power stations and power distribution networks will be among the main topics for discussion by the technicians and their ministers, according to officials at the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources here.

They said that linking the national grids in the four states: Egypt, Jordan, Iraq and Yemen is another important topic on the agenda.

Jordan Electricity Authority (JEA) Director Mohammad Saeed Arafat, who will take part in the meetings, said that the four countries will undertake practical measures designed to achieve the greatest possible measure of cooperation and coordination in energy fields.

The Yemeni team of technicians taking part in the meetings has expressed interest in cooperating with JEA in drawing up designs, specification and tenders pertaining to electrification projects in Yemen.

The team members held talks with JEA officials, including Arafat, and later toured several JEA projects in Jordan.

Discussions on future cooperation between Jordan and Yemen in the field of electricity were

conducted at the meeting. The technicians from the four-member states will submit their recommendations and resolutions to the ministerial meeting on Sunday.

Meanwhile, another ACC meeting is expected in Amman, on Saturday, in which directors of national news agencies will take part. The two-day meeting, which will be opened by Minister of Information Ibrahim Izzeddin, will tackle cooperation among the national news agencies of the four countries which started in January 1990 and will also endorse a system that would result in achieving integration among the four news agencies.

Matters that include the use of satellites to broadcast news material will be discussed at the meeting.

Seminar discuss speech and hearing impairment

AMMAN (J.T.) — Deaf children grow up and become deaf adults. Yet parents of young deaf children are rarely given opportunity to meet deaf adults. A panel discussion organised by the Royal Cultural Center and the National Speech and Hearing Center brought together an audience of 250 deaf adults, parents, professionals, teachers and government officials.

The panel was directed by Maal Hamzeh, the director of the National Speech and Hearing Center, Amal Nahhas, the director of the Queen Alia School for the Deaf and Dr. Jean Andrews, professors of deaf

education from Lamar University, Beaumont, Texas, U.S. and interpreted in sign language by Hind Abbed-Rabbo.

The objectives of the meeting were:

- 1) To organise parents of young deaf children to form a society to improve conditions for their children.

2) To inform the audience about the weakness of the recent temporary legislation for the handicap (1989), which fails to address specific needs of deaf children and their families.

3) To raise awareness about current deaf education practices in

Jordan, the importance of early sign and speech language intervention and the importance of parents forming a society to support each other.

A questions and answers period followed the presentations with many deaf adults and parents voicing their concern for deaf children. The audience responded enthusiastically to the discussions. Productive outcomes of the meeting included: parents meeting deaf adults, parents registering their names for their support group and signing a petition to the legislation to reform the deficient handicap law.



Al-Hayat the healthy refreshing drink from Karoline

Jordan Times WEEKENDER

Published Every Thursday

June 14, 1990 A

Haidar Mahmoud An epitome of contemporary Arab poets

LOVERS from Tira walked along the shores of the sea beneath Mount Carmel. The water rose and touched the girls' feet. Jealous, her young man told the water to stop. The water rose again to touch her feet and this time her lover gave no warning, he pulled out his gun and shot at the sea.

Since this story took place, the people of Tira, a village on Mount Carmel, have been known as those who shot at the sea.

By Mariam M. Shalhin
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — From time immemorial, there seems to have been something synonymous about poetry and Arabs. What exactly it is, no one knows for sure. All agree, however, that history in prose and poetry that came from the Semitic tribes of Arabia are as old as its peoples' civilisation.

Arab poets recorded disputes, wars, friendships, social customs, legendary love stories and even the thoughts of philosophers and other men of learning. In fact poets in Pre-Islamic Period, recorded most of our history in their verses.

"But while most of the Arab region, from the Atlantic to the Indian Ocean, has come into the 21st century with typewriters and word-processors, the poem has changed its place without losing its potency and vital importance in the daily lives of the Arab people."

Haidar Mahmoud is an epitome of contemporary Arab poets who have kept their place as messengers to their people and their rulers alike. He has written what often could not be said under a restrictive political and social system. But the fact that his message has always managed

to reach the "masses" means that no system, no matter how restrictive or closed, has been able to curtail the impact of "the poem". The poet and his art have thus outlived all other forms of communication in Arabia.

In fact Mahmoud points out that there is a phenomenon particular to Arab poetry which is that "because the language has not been changed, a poem written 2000 years ago can still be read today. The message and the language has remained the same."

Mahmoud, a former director of culture, writes poems on subjects ranging from internal Jordanian politics to Arab unity, from massacres of Palestinians to social issues everywhere.

In short, his poems reflect the realities of the Arab World in recent history, as much as old Arab poetry reflected the realities of Arab life before and after the Prophet Mohammad.

Born in 1938, Mahmoud attended the Freres school in his parental hometown of Tira, a village in Mount Carmel. After the state of Israel was created on the parts of Palestine which was home to Mahmoud's family they came to Jordan and settled here.

"In 1948, when we came to Amman, my experience with poetry began," Mahmoud remembers. "It grew out of the pain, the explosive pain and disillusionment which we all felt. I began to write about my home town, the sea and the mountains which were our frontiers and from which we were exiled."

Mahmoud feels that the economic and social changes which came about as a result of the diaspora also gave fuel to the poetry which Palestinians in particular were writing. "While other Arab poets wrote about the political, military and national humiliation which the Arabs suffered as a result of the 1948 disaster," Mahmoud says, "the Palestinians expressed the pain of social and economic dislocations as well as the realities of the physical, geographic and political changes that they have had to face."

"We left with the clothes on our back, never to return," Mahmoud recalls. "I went from an elite private school to a simple school. My family were no longer comfortable middle class citizens but on the verge of poverty. All these factors affected our psyche," he maintains.

After school, little Haidar worked at a construction site and at night he wrote his poetry. By the time he was in his early 20's he was publishing in Jordan, Syria, Egypt and Lebanon.

"At 19 the poet answers questions before asking them," he says. "In his 20's he will question and answer. In his 30's he will only ask. This

gradual development of his thought process will be reflected in a poet's work. I believe it was reflected in mine," Mahmoud says.

While talking about his experience, Mahmoud never fails to refer to the people of Tira. "You see we are mountain people and mountain people are best at singing, dancing and writing poetry. During the time of hardship their joyful moods take on a fighting spirit. It is the law of the nature of the mountain people."

"We are the people who are known throughout history as those who shot at the sea in a moment of passion," Mahmoud says.

Although Mahmoud spent most of his life working as a print journalist in Jordan and Beirut and as a television and radio commentator in Amman, his poems served as lyrics for many Arab singers and are still taught in Jordan's public schools.

"Our poetry cannot die because we live it and children at school sit in silence only during their poetry class, because when the poet speaks, everyone even children listen," Haidar says confidently.

Mahmoud wrote two musicals, one in the 1960's and the other in the 1970's. Both were heavily censored and short lived because of their strong political and social criticisms at a time when criticism was not easily digested.

The future of Arabic

Mahmoud believes that the Arabic language and culture



Haidar Mahmoud

have "two permanent bank accounts" and as such are "unlikely to go bankrupt or diminish in popularity despite the strong influence of Western culture on our lives."

"Our language is our culture and it will remain strong because of two important factors," he says. "The first factor is the Koran, the other is the continual growth of poetry."

The match that lit the flame

Last spring Mahmoud wrote a poem — what he calls a political poem, in which he openly criticised the practices of the government of former Prime Minister Zeid Rifai. After reading the poem to a public gathering in the northern Jordanian city of Irbid, over 1/2 million copies of the poem circulated in Jordan in less than a week, according to

Mahmoud. The day after the poetry reading, Mahmoud was fired from his government post but the message spread. Mahmoud calls that poem "the match that started the fire." Shortly afterwards the events in the south took sway over the country and the rest is history now.

Presently, as in bygone days, poetry is a reflection of the realities we live in. "A message for both the ruled and the rulers. Its role is very unlikely to change — at least not in Arabia," Mahmoud says.

Today, Mahmoud, having been reinstated as cultural advisor to the prime minister, continues to put poetry above everything else; the people of Jordan, Palestinians and many others in the Arab World, continue to enjoy his poetry, whether they are sung, read or recited.

Diary

THE RECENT (June 9) changes in government posts came not as a surprise (since they had been expected and talked about a lot in advance) but as a "shock" to most observers. What is "shocking" about them, seasoned observers say, is, first, the scope of the changes; and, second, their quality and durability. Neither were apparently satisfactory. "For one thing, the changes were to have been much more sweeping, but that did not happen, and this was the first disappointment," a political activist said. "On the other hand, it was the wrong man in the wrong place — totally," he added. "The government wanted to get rid of one particular senior official," a member of parliament said. "Instead of retiring him, they appointed him secretary-general of an important ministry," the disgruntled deputy added. "What kind of change is this?" he asked. A government insider cited the example of a secretary-general who would only accept a certain post if he was to be moved from his beloved ministry. "Apparently he was the sole official who was consulted and listened to in the whole 'musical chairs' episode," the insider said. "The rest were simply told to move, and they did." Practically, the story ends here, and there seems to be no further changes in the offing — not for now at least. However, deputies, activists, and observers continue to describe the reshuffle as disappointing, if not outright wrong, in their political salons; and, as far as they are concerned, the unravelling of the story of changes has hardly begun in order for it to stop anywhere near here.

IN THE build-up to the stage of reducing government expenditures, many cultural and educational attaches serving abroad have been called back home. To further this effort, several correspondents of Petra, the Jordanian News Agency, have also been recalled from a number of Arab capitals. Some hailed this latest move as good and necessary, not only because taxpayers could save some money that way, but also because few Petra correspondents abroad took their jobs seriously and reported on events other than Jordanian ambassadors meeting medium-level officials in their respective bases of work. So far, so good. But what about poor souls who have just been assigned abroad? Last week one of them complained that for him to accept his new assignment in his Arab capital, he had to retire his wife from public service in Jordan, rent his apartment back home and sign a three-year lease for his new flat in his new Arab base and move his children from schools here to schools there. The poor hack understood our officials' urge to send him back. "But does the government understand the situation that I'm left in?" he asked. If bureaucracy could understand human concern, the answer would be yes of course. If it does not, well ... who would help him?

YET ANOTHER veteran diplomat is ending his tour of duty in Jordan. Mr. Yancho Demirev, Bulgaria's ambassador to Jordan since 1986, is finishing up his four-year term in the Kingdom and will be going back to base in Sofia. Demirev, who speaks Arabic fluently, having served as ambassador to Sudan for six years and earlier as attaché to Syria and Iraq, will be leaving towards the end of July and will be missed by the many friends that he and Mrs. Demirev have made during their stay here. "I leave this country with the fondest of memories," the ambassador says, expressing special regard to Jordanian officials and people and his pleasure over the development of relations between Bulgaria and Jordan. "I want to express my best wishes to the people of Jordan and to all my Jordanian friends," he says. Mr. and Mrs. Demirev will be looking forward to reuniting with their two children, a boy and a girl, and their grandchild. "There will also be a lot of political developments to watch (back home)," says the ambassador, who will be waiting in the wings for another assignment abroad. Will it be in the Middle East again? Maybe, given his great talent with the language and experience in the Arab World. But what about Mrs. Demirev? "Not in the Middle East, certainly not after Jordan," she says privately. "It was so nice here that any new base would have to be as good." Hopefully.

THE FOREIGN press community in Jordan is losing one of its veteran members who seems to have been lured away from Jordanian hospitality by the prospect of Mexican food and a chance to practise Spanish first hand. John Rice, Associated Press correspondent in Amman for the past five years, is packing his bags to leave for Mexico by the middle of next month. Although John thinks that the prospect of living in Mexico "is fascinating," he still feels "sad about leaving the Middle East." But then John does not let his feelings of sadness overcome his amazing optimism. Through the letter, he finds a way to add pleasure to blues. "It is good to feel sad about leaving the Middle East," he says. In Mexico, John will be joining a larger AP office staff, and expects that the atmosphere will be "much more foreign than in Jordan." To John Rice, we say good luck in his new assignment. "Old hacks never die," John.

THE SEASON of comings and goings may well be at its peak, it can be said. But it is by no means confined to diplomats and English-speaking journalists. Alain Renon, the editor of the Jordan Times' weekly French edition, has left us for home after a 14-month stint on the job. Alain, being the shy and quiet guy he always appeared to be, refused to hear or give speeches during the dinner party that was thrown in honour by the Jordan Times' staff just before he left. His excuse was apparently that not many among his colleagues would have understood him if he had to speak, in French of course. Jean-Marc Bordes, Renon's successor on the French pages, had arrived only a few days before Alain left, but he's promising that there will be better coordination and cooperation among the English- and the French-reading pages at the Jordan Times. Alain is back in Paris now, reunited with his girl friend, Florence Monteil, who had also worked for the Jordan Times under Alain, and Jean-Marc is settling nicely and quickly in Amman. Bonne chance to both of them.

Normeen Murad

Education instead of imprisonment

An experiment with young offenders at Lüneburg

By Maria Frise

THE KATZENSTRASSE in Lüneburg is a narrow alley behind the town hall, not far from the court and the nearby prison with its small barred windows. The college of adult education is only a few houses further. The unemployed get together at a new brick building diagonally opposite. No. 3 is an older inconspicuous house which provides a home for aids counselling and other social services as well as for the "Care Project."

In the first-floor flat ten big youngsters are just putting on their white gear for karate training. Twice a week they follow the strict rules of such combat, guided by a sports teacher. They themselves sanded and varnished the wooden floor in this large bare room. They also painted black Asiatic symbols on the whitewashed walls. One of them signifies "The Way is the Objective."

This karate course is part of the "non-residential social and educational provisions for young offenders" as an alternative to detention and prison. There are similar "projects" in many other towns in the Federal Republic — four hundred and more by now. Judges, lawyers, court officials, and social workers have combined efforts to find backers and are now attempting to find new ways of rehabilitating youngsters who have committed offences.

What they expect and demand doesn't seem to be much. Youngsters must come to the Katzenstraße at a fixed time twice a week for half a year. They can choose between karate, carpentry and turning, or repairing bikes and scooters. Some of them feel so much at home here that they bring along friends or girl-friends, which is very much welcomed since the objective is integration of these young offenders into a normal existence, not their isolation.

These youngsters often come to the Katzenstraße for longer than the half year required by the court. They make themselves comfortable in the soft armchairs and sofas abandoned by the affluent, use the telephone, play table-tennis, or go swimming. One sixteen year-old said that he wouldn't be able to keep going without this substitute for the happy family existence he never had. He has big plans too. He wants to complete secondary schooling in adult education courses and then start on an apprenticeship.

Most of the youngsters at the Katzenstraße have already been in trouble several times. Theft, breaking into cars, driving without a licence, and assault are the most frequent offences. Wanting to have something, to be part of what's happening, and to be accepted through taking what one needs — those are the impulses.

All of these kids have a very difficult background and everyday surroundings. The majority didn't have any kind of protective home, and some grew up in various institutions from which they time and again ran away. Only a few completed secondary modern or special school, and started on some apprenticeship. Without work and lacking any firm commitment or perspective in an achievement-oriented society, they've got used to hanging around and wandering about. Some of them have first-hand experience of shelters for the homeless and detention centres.

Not even advocates of tough treatment continue to maintain that sending young people to penal institutions prevents further criminality. Investigations tend in fact to demonstrate the opposite. Criminality among the young isn't always the beginning of a life beyond the law. It may also be just a passing episode. In the early stages the chances of exerting a positive influence by way of practical educational assistance are quite good.

Education instead of punishment has been the slogan for decades, but it's scarcely possible to educate people for freedom when they are confined. Detention centres for the young may no longer look like the sombre dungeons of the turn of the century, but behind prison walls there still prevails a brutal society where the stronger rules and oppresses, imposing his own laws on the weaker and defenceless. As soon as youngsters are out of prison again, most of them — having acquired a few more tricks and criminal skills — take up their anti-social career again, expecting that they'll get away with it.

The alternative projects were set up to break this vicious circle, to prevent repeated offences, and to give essential assistance to those previously deprived. The dedicated staff cautiously attempt to make up for developmental deprivation and to compensate for wrong developments, encouraging socially desirable behaviour, strengthening self-assurance, and opening up the possibility of a prison-free

existence.

Obviously, such an objective can't be achieved just like that, and there are almost daily setbacks and disappointments. Much patience is needed to gain the confidence of youngsters who have had more than enough negative experiences of the adult world and bourgeois society.

The staff at the Katzenstraße — two full-time and up to six part-time — accompany youngsters to the employment exchange and vocational guidance sessions, help fill out forms, and talk to parents, apprentices' masters, or lawyers and judges in case something has "happened" again. For weeks a student fetched his charge from home every morning and took him to school until the boy had finally learnt to get up on time and no longer played truant from lessons.

"Diversion" is the name given to an increasingly frequently practiced attempt at avoiding court proceedings as far as possible in the case of minor offences. The intention is that such lesser misdemeanours should be dealt with at a lower level. Most young offenders have pronounced sense of right and wrong, but if months pass between an offence and appearance in court, remorse and regret evaporate.

Confrontation with the victims often exerts an educational impact on the culprit. Social workers call this a settlement between perpetrator and victim, the "handshake project", since this confrontation really should be at close quarters. The younger thief, for instance, must apologise to the person from whom he has stolen, so far as possible making good the damage done.

There are considerable differences in the way an offence is treated from land to land, from town to town. If a youngster is caught with a joint in Hamburg, the policeman usually silently stubs out the offending object and gives the kid a warning. In the nearby district of Winsen, the young hash smoker can reckon with a court case.

Between 87 and 92 per cent of those released from youth detention centres commit new offences, whereas only 27 per cent of the kids involved in the Lüneburg project lapse again — Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung.

JTV CHANNEL 2 WEEKLY PREVIEW

Thursday, June 14

8:30 Different World

Denise is dead worried about having to read something before her classroom but with a little help from friends and some hard labour she conquers all.

8:55 Dolphin Cove

American dolphin researcher Michael has landed the assignment of his dreams but leaving the land of video games and fast food for life down under isn't exactly what his two children had in mind.

9:45 News in English

10:00 World Cup

Italy vs. U.S.A.

11:45 Movie of the Week

Little White Lies

A doctor and a cop meet on a plane bound for Rome — they fall in love and both conceal their true identity but in the end they find out about their professions and remain in love.

Friday, June 15

8:30 Didi's Comedy Show

Didi finds himself involved in a robbery he knows nothing about. The police are after him and he is after the gang to clear himself.

8:55 Beauty and the Beast

Gabriel keeps Vincent alive in captivity for the sake of the baby ... Vincent is uncooperative. Diana and Vincent's friends save everyone and kill Gabriel.

9:45 News in English

10:00 World Cup

West Germany vs. UAE



sentences Robert to death.

9:45 News in English

10:00 World Cup

Argentina vs. Romania

Tuesday, June 19

8:30 Charles in Charge

Chaos rules the house when the children decide not to abide by any rules and even ask Charles not to interfere. But soon wake up to the reality that life without order is no life at all.

9:10 A Horseman Riding By

The Profiters

The war affects people differently. There are those who opposed the war and there are opportunists. Our Craddock joins the army and turns his property over to the needy.

9:45 News in English

10:00 World Cup

Italy vs. USSR

Wednesday, June 20

8:30 Golden Girls

Whose Face is This Anyway?

Blanche is having problems with the way she looks especially when her friends look younger. So she decides on a beautification surgery but something happens and she changed her mind.

9:10 Nuclear Age

Education of R. McNamara

J.F. Kennedy appoints Robert McNamara secretary of defence, who immediately surrounds himself with top-notch advisors and transforms the U.S. nuclear strategy.

9:45 News in English

10:00 World Cup

Brazil vs. Scotland

Saturday, June 16

8:30 Empty Nest

Barbara dates 'Alan', a blind man, an experience. She does not repeat. Carol disagrees and tries him herself only to realise that Barbara was right.

9:00 Encounter

9:30 Classical Music

9:45 News in English

10:00 World Cup

England vs. Netherlands

11:45 Allo Allo

The Gestapo and the stormtroopers are still after the downed British pilots in occupied France. They even compete for the honour of catching them first.

Sunday, June 17

8:30 Hey Dad

Daddy believes that robbers are invading the neighbourhood. So he changes the locks of the house and

organises a vigilante group. You can imagine the rest.

9:10 Global Report

Valley of Hope

Children dying of malnutrition by the thousands is a familiar phenomenon in the Third World. UNICEF cooperation with the villagers have found a very simple cure.

9:45 News in English

10:00 World Cup

Belgium vs. Uruguay

Monday, June 18

8:30 Perfect Strangers

Hello Ball

It is golf time again; Balki is playing against his girlfriend's father. Larry advises Balki to lose and Balki does exactly the opposite and tension runs high.

8:55 Blind Faith

More dramatic events unfold. Robert asks his son to lie in his favour in court but is turned down. The court

The Sahara-Sahel Exhibition

The civilisation of water

By Victoire Jean

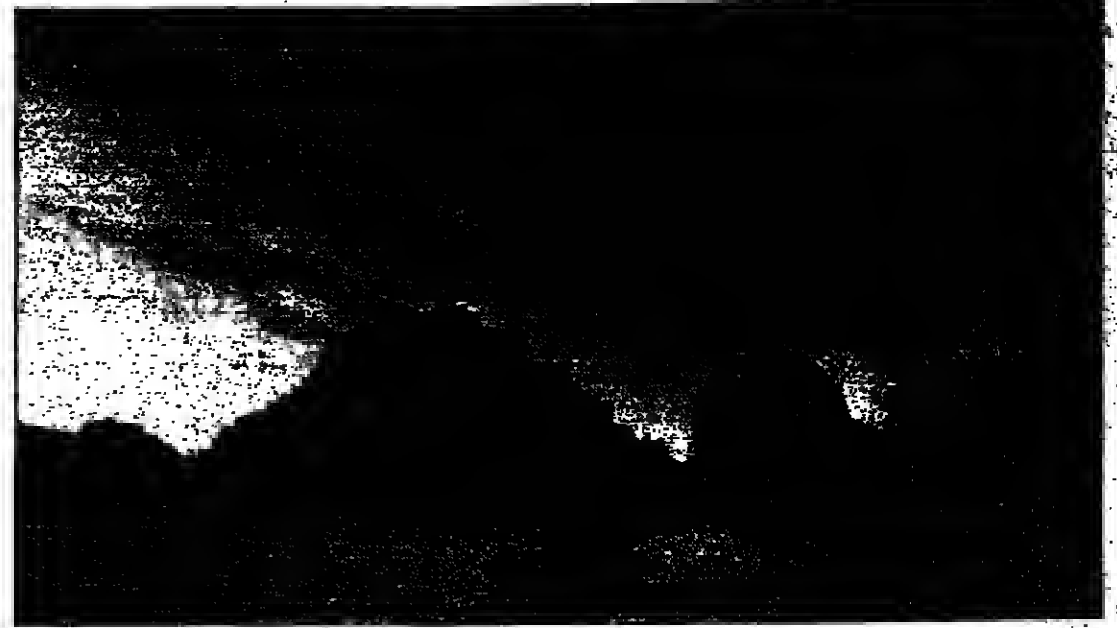
PARIS — In the Jardin des Plantes in Paris, the Natural History Museum has opened its doors to a special kind of exhibition on the South Sahara and North Sahel, organised by the French Cultural Centres of West Africa and the Ministry of Cooperation and Development.

The exhibition is indeed quite special in the deliberate fineness of the space devoted to it, in contrast to the message, rich in the history and survival of these nomadic peoples scattered on the fringe of a great desert, the Sahara, delivered up to us "sedentary" Westerners.

A single room, indeed invaded by ocre sand, both dense and fluid, ready to fly up and swallow up men, animals, habitats and objects from everyday life, recreates the life of a people living between savanna and desert: the Sahel. Hanging on the wall, thirty static, precise, eloquent illustrated panels recount history or legend.

In a corner, there is a beautiful, dignified Peul woman, decked out in all her finery and jewellery, whose artificial immobility is unable to conceal the long distance covered, over centuries, by her remote ancestors. For who are the Peuls?

Their origin remains enigmatic and controversial, but anthropological studies lead one to believe that they came from East Africa (Egypt or Ethiopia) and that from 6000 to 5000 B.C. they undertook their migration from east to west, avoiding the north



One of the paintings displayed at the Natural History Museum in Paris as part of the Sahara-Sahel Exhibition

and the south of the Sahara to follow the course of the rivers springing from the big mountain masses and crossing the interior of the desert.

It is, and always will be, the eternal problem of water, the source of life indispensable for all, humans and cattle, which, from the 12th to 14th centuries, was to lead them (certainly through other problems too, such as the difficult religious cohabitation between different ethnic groups, drought, etc.) towards the east from Senegal to Niger, where they were to play an important political, economic and religious role.

Near the Peul lady, a powerful oryx, the big antelope with its muzzle and sides speckled with black, whose long, straight, tapering horns earned it the name of "sabre

antelope", stands next to a dromedary saddle, casually thrown down onto the sand, awaiting departure.

The camel is the irreplaceable friend and ally of the nomad, of the Moors and Tuaregs' warlike activities, the provider of milk, meat and wool, the carrier of both man and matter.

But the caravans and their dromedaries, which, for 2,000 years plied their trans-Saharan trade, linking up the various oases or making exchanges between the "banks of the Sahara" possible, are dying out. And if, in 1940, the salt caravan could still number 4,000 camels, from Timbuctoo to Taoudeni, today there are just a few dozen or, at the most, a hundred of them.

The caravans move on and the camel goes on, the faithful

companion of the Tuareg whom one imagines thanks to the decor of his lifestyle, recreated here for the needs of the exhibition.

There is the low, welcoming tent, with its mats, beds and cushions. Scattered haphazard over the sand lie the unchanging elements of the tribe, the spear, the shield of yesteryear, the gourd-water-bottle and the mortar, and the tiny, blue bag, ready to serve the passing stranger, with its legendary hospitality.

Through its simplicity and bareness, the exhibition, which in no way appears to be giving a lecture in humanitarianism, and does not beg for anything, has the merit of opening one's eyes to the present precariousness of the peoples of these regions — L'Actualité en France.

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

Saturday, June 16

1907 — Reactionary party in Russia forces Tsar Nicholas II to dissolve second Duma.

1917 — First all-Russian congress of the Soviets is convened.

1920 — Council of League of Nations holds first public meeting at St. James Palace in London.

1932 — Ban on Nazi storm troopers in Germany is lifted.

1940 — France's Maginot Line is abandoned to Germans in World War II.

1958 — United States and Japan sign 10-year agreement on atomic energy.

1960 — U.S. President Dwight D. Eisenhower cancels visit to Japan after anti-American riots there.

1962 — Three feuding princes in Laos attempt to end their dispute and form coalition government.

1963 — First woman space traveller, Valentina Tereshkova, is launched into orbit from base in Soviet Union.

1971 — U.S. Senate votes against plan calling for total American troop withdrawal from Vietnam by end of year.

1976 — Bloody rioting erupts in Soweto, largest black township in South Africa, setting off months of racial upheaval in which 600 blacks and 3 whites die.

1987 — At least 25 people die and 13 are reported missing after ferry packed with tourists overturns in flames off South Korea's southern coast.

1990 — Israeli warplanes attack Palestinian guerrilla bases in Rashidiyah refugee camp.

Sunday, June 17

1811 — National Council meets in Paris to settle dispute between Napoleon Bonaparte and Pope Pius VII.

1958 — Announcement is made of Imre Nagy's execution after secret trial in Hungary.

1967 — China announces it has exploded its first hydrogen bomb.

1969 — Communist summit conference in Moscow ends with majority support of public document that omits any criticism of China.

1971 — United States and Japan sign agreement to restore island of Okinawa to Japan.

1989 — Israeli soldiers wound eight Arabs in scattered clashes during Palestinian general strike called to

protest Israel's Middle East peace plan.

Monday, June 18

1815 — British under Duke of Wellington, and Prussians under Gerhard von Blucher defeat France's Napoleon Bonaparte at Waterloo.

1940 — Germans capture French port of Cherbourg in World War II.

1952 — British plan for Central African federation is announced.

1953 — Egypt is proclaimed a republic with General M. Naguib as president; South Korea releases 26,000 non-Communist North Korean prisoners.

1961 — Three princes of Laos meet in Zurich, Switzerland, and agree to form coalition government to unite the war-torn kingdom.

1965 — Air Vice Marshal Nguyen Cao Ky assumes office as premier of South Vietnam and vows to spur war against Viet Cong.

1968 — Britain's house of Lords rejects Labour government's sanctions against Rhodesia.

1975 — Slayer of Saudi Arabia's King Faisal is publicly beheaded in front of govern-

ment palace in Riyadh.

1985 — U.S. space shuttle Discovery, with Saudi Arabian prince aboard as passenger, launches a satellite for Arab World.

1987 — Israel condemns decision by Pope John Paul II to grant audience to Austria's President Kurt Waldheim.

1988 — Turkey's Premier Turgut Ozal is wounded slightly by gunman as he addresses party convention in Ankara.

Tuesday, June 19

1885 — Statue of Liberty arrives in New York City from France.

1921 — Major European powers agree to mediate in dispute between Turkey and Greece.

1944 — U.S. troops take Saipan Island in Pacific from Japanese during World War II.

1953 — Julius and Ethel Rosenberg are executed in United States after conviction as Soviet atomic spies.

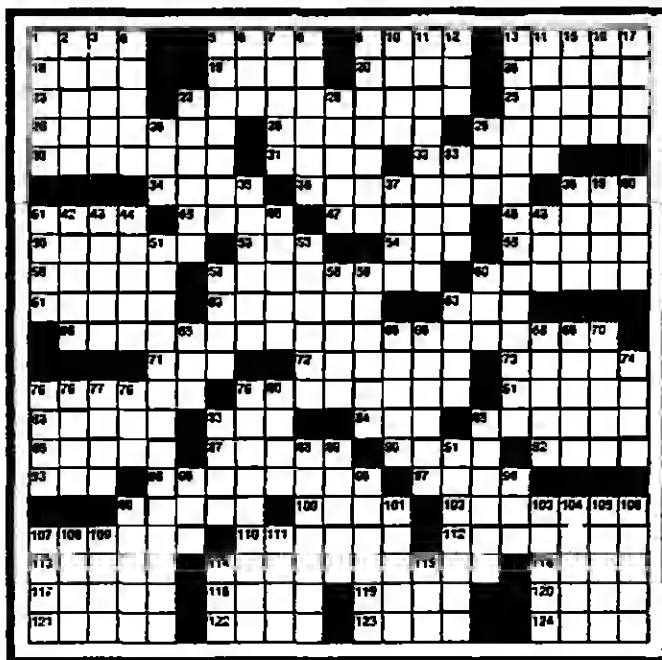
1961 — Kuwait becomes independent of Britain.

1975 — U.S. Secretary-General Kurt Waldheim opens first major world conference on status of women, in Mexico City.

By the Associated Press

Weekend Crossword

Edited by Herb Ettenson

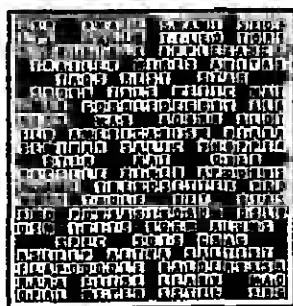


Last Week's Cryptograms

- One who would buy costly perfume from black market can wind up paying through the nose.
- Shy child avoided kiss of elderly relative. Poor kid didn't like to feel bespeckled.
- Radio coverage was not as effective as TV showing of the rodeo.
- Auto dealer sold custom car to old customer unaccustomed to such high-class motoring.

CRYPTOGRAMS

1. CMOETV Z LOISMEBW NEZJZFA, Z FIBAYF
TMSB SWZA WYB LFISENJ ZNICA.
—By Gordon Miller
2. FVNNI-KA-RHPMI ROGGR. ELUCGYLEN
MOTTOWK MNG FLY RUTI PREGACVLE OW
EGGGFLE.
—By Lois H. Jones
3. IREOVON PROVEIT UPON CRKE PROVE IC
CVTUD PSSRK DEPENUNSE.
—By Ed Huddleson
4. FATSTO WAKT ZIC PAN; ZIOTF LUC CAWF
UL LOMAS PANTF AW SULM.
—By Norton Rhoades



Literally

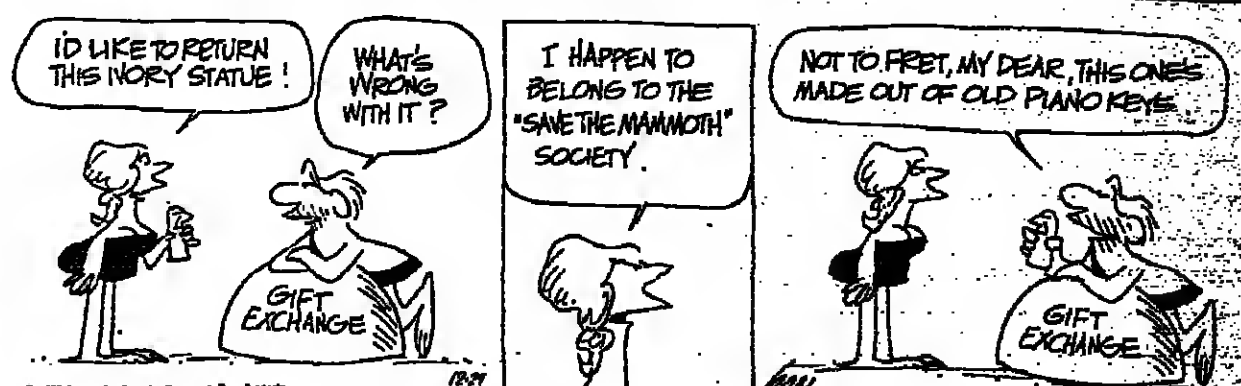
By Olive Dunn

- ACROSS
- 1 Bible book, abbr.
 - 5 — as for example
 - 9 7X city
 - 11 Nimble
 - 18 Mrs. Charles
 - 19 Straggle
 - 20 Pearl Mosque
 - 21 Site
 - 21 Skirt
 - 22 Pteroid
 - 23 Valid
 - 24 Scorch
 - 26 Spooksters?
 - 28 Exhausts
 - 30 Vibrations
 - 31 Stable staple
 - 32 Thespan's miles
 - 34 Make reservations
 - 36 Title
 - 38 Court unit
 - 41 Usability
 - 45 Summons
 - 47 Busybody
 - 48 Hole — jacob
 - 50 Improvises
 - 52 Parents
 - 53 Grads-to-be
 - 55 Intricate plot
 - 56 Michelangelo work
 - 57 Harassed
 - 60 Evil
 - 61 Play for time
 - 62 Lawlessness
 - 63 Recent
 - 64 Gruesome discovery?
 - 66 Tragic
 - 68 Rose, men
 - 69 Aquarium fish
 - 70 Lamprey
 - 72 Cops or sps
 - 73 Dawn goddess
 - 75 Ger. gentleman
 - 76 Put forth
 - 78 Cryptogram
 - 79 "Long and —"
 - 81 Bounces
 - 82 Works on herbs
 - 83 Beset
 - 84 Appellation
 - 85 Clew
 - 86 Neither fish — low
 - 87 Man at bat?
 - 88 Convey moldings
 - 89 Indian
 - 90 Hung around
 - 91 Office
 - 92 Grim
 - 93 Ribs
 - 95 Weights abbr
 - 96 Token of
 - 97 Inlaid
 - 98 Legal thing
 - 99 War
 - 101 Anesthetic
 - 102 Flood
 - 104 Refuge
 - 105 Ceremonies
 - 106 Wear away
 - 107 Gradually
 - 107 Impediment
 - 108 Gloomy atmosphere
 - 109 Curt
 - 111 Experts
 - 112 Place for convalescence
 - 113 Forty-nine's quest
- DOWN
- 1 Make into law
 - 2 Helical
 - 3 Crossbeam
 - 4 Seraglio
 - 5 Pardon
 - 6 Eskimo kmle
 - 7 Apartment complex
 - 8 Freshwater
 - 9 Note sounded to signal attack
 - 10 Literary conflict
 - 11 Tasty remainder?
 - 12 Dolt
 - 13 Ladies of fashion?
 - 14 Sheep-like
 - 15 Thrive
 - 16 Advantage
 - 17 Man of vision
 - 18 Goat antelope
 - 19 Trail
 - 20 Household spirit
 - 21 Surpass
 - 22 Dressing gown
 - 23 Put forth
 - 24 Cryptogram
 - 25 "Long and —"
 - 26 Bounces
 - 27 Works on herbs
 - 28 Beset
 - 29 Appellation
 - 30 Clew
 - 31 Neither fish — low
 - 32 Man at bat?
 - 33 Thrive
 - 34 Advantage
 - 35 Man of vision
 - 36 Goat antelope
 - 37 Peek
 - 38 Mary or Roger
 - 39 A hole
 - 40 Serving to protect
 - 41 Esther Rolle sitcom
 - 42 First name in gymnastics
 - 43 Dress with exaggerated care
 - 44 Once called
 - 45 — Disney
 - 46 Hospital sections
 - 47 Use the slopes
 - 48 Hawaiian dance
 - 49 Appropriately
 - 50 — a Camera
 - 51 Warming
 - 52 Untold
 - 53 Panama
 - 54 Gandhi's country
 - 55 Low man on the
 - 56 Write of
 - 57 Descent's
 - 58 Jacob
 - 59 Unheeding
 - 60 Skirt bottom
 - 61 Egg-shaped
 - 62 Nothing but
 - 63 — go brah!
 - 64 Sailed
 - 65 Prothead's mark
 - 66 LA city
 - 67 "Speak softly and carry —"
 - 68 Shapeless mass
 - 69 Leak slowly
 - 70 Under
 - 71 Chit voice
 - 72 Rebuff
 - 73 Actress' gown
 - 74 Roman dress
 - 75 Right away
 - 76 Eye part
 - 77 Deer
 - 78 Briton or Gaut
 - 79 Forty-nine's quest
 - 80 Recs.
 - 81 Leg joint
 - 82 Leak slowly
 - 83 Under
 - 84 Chit voice
 - 85 Rebuff
 - 86 Actress' gown
 - 87 Roman dress
 - 88 Right away
 - 89 Eye part
 - 90 Deer
 - 91 Briton or Gaut
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 - 93 Recs.
 - 94 Leg joint
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 - 107 Leg joint
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 - 111 Rebuff
 - 112 Actress' gown
 - 113 Roman dress
 - 114 Right away
 - 115 Eye part
 - 116 Deer
 - 117 Briton or Gaut
 - 118 Forty-nine's quest
 - 119 Recs.
 - 120 Leg joint

Diagrams 19-19, By Craig Schwartz

- ACROSS
- 1 Surrounded by
 - 2 Total production in a year abbr.
 - 3 Pine nature
 - 4 Paddle
 - 5 Horse feature
 - 11 Horse god
 - 13 Fish-eating eagle
 - 14 Coin
 - 15 Spotted
 - 16 Finish-line marker
 - 17 Hospital sections
 - 18 Use the slopes
 - 19 Hawaiian dance
 - 20 Appropriately
 - 21 — a Camera
 - 22 Warming
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 - 106 Deer
 - 107 Briton or Gaut
 - 108 Forty-nine's quest
 - 109 Recs.
 - 110 Leg joint

B.C.



Handwritten text in Arabic script.

Thoughts, feelings and impressions expressed in Samia Zaru's art

By Hana Darwazah
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — An artist with a distinct message, Samia Zaru believes that art is a constant

ly ongoing process that should evoke a dialogue and an interaction between the art piece and the viewer. Zaru has always perceived art as omnipresent in everyday

life. According to Zaru, art is not an abstract entity that is removed from day to day living. It is rather a part of our daily lives. People just need to be trained to perceive the world in an enriched pleasant frame of vision.

Believing that art transcends man-made barriers, and is a potentially international medium of communication, Zaru decided to back up her talent with professional training and set out to express her thoughts, feelings and impressions in the accessible language of art.

Zaru received her higher education from the American University of Beirut, and completed her post-graduate studies at the Corcoran Art Gallery and the American University in Washington D.C. in painting, sculpture and graphic design. After returning to Amman, Zaru started teaching and working on her own art.

Zaru, who is today a mother of six, still teaches art and finds time to do her own artwork which includes painting, metal sculpture, large wall murals and these dimensional installation art themes that might contain stones, metal figures, paintings,



Samia Zaru

pieces of tent canvases, rag dolls and whatever Zaru finds expressive of her ideas and visions.

"I find that teaching children is an immensely satisfying and rewarding experi-

ence. I enjoy the give-and-take process and their honest spontaneous reactions," Zaru said in an interview with the Jordan Times Weekender.

"I get a lot of feedback for my work from my students and my own children. The more reactions I get to my work, the more solid a base I have to work with," she explained.

Her theory is that "an artist cannot work from a vacuum, because to me at least, art is an expression of the world around us."

Having participated in over 30 exhibitions worldwide (Kuwait, Iraq, Jordan, Turkey, Cyprus, England, USSR, Austria, China, Poland, and U.S. (to name a few) including eight solo shows has not changed Zaru's outlook to life in general or to art in particular. Zaru believes that art is derived from and is an expression of one's environment in a personal, social, and political sense. Anything that touches one's life is a part of art. Zaru drew attention to the distinct line between photography and a man-made art piece. "An art piece should make one feel, question, and think about things, about life and one's existence.



"If the world heard, it did not understand, if it understood, it did not care"

Art should create a dialogue and leave in imprint on the viewer."

Zaru's latest work Tents and Stones, which is composed of numerous three dimensional installations, was exhibited in Amman last June (1989), at the United Nations Headquarters in Vienna, and at the United Nations in New York. It is still currently touring several major U.S. cities. So in a sense, Zaru has succeeded in transmitting her artistic message to multitudes of people, overcoming the

barriers of nationalities and languages.

The message behind Zaru's work is apparently reaching people which, she felt, became evident from two incidents that took place in her Tents and Stones exhibition in Amman and in Vienna. In Amman a man came and placed a wreath of flowers under Zaru's installation depicting a martyr; in New York a woman stood in front of one of Zaru's works and wept. "The woman said she was deeply touched and ashamed

of being a human being."

Zaru is currently preparing a new installation with the theme of Time and Decay and Human Inflicted Decay for an exhibition to be held in Baghdad during November.

In accordance with Zaru's idea of art being accessible to everyone, she makes hand-printed cotton caftans and other usable artistic things such as cards cushions, handbags and kitchen holders. She operates from her office-workshop off the Second Circle.



One of the sketches by the artist

Chinese film sidesteps modern-day problems

By Marilyn August
Associated Press

PARIS (AP) — Chinese filmmaker Zhang Yimou, whose award-winning tale of forbidden love has yet to be seen in his own country, says movies there must not comment on modern-day problems if they are to pass the censors.

Zhang, 39, one of China's hottest young directors, was in Paris to promote his latest film *Ju Dou* — winner of the Luis Buñuel Prize awarded by Latin American film critics last month at the Cannes Film Festival.

"If you make a film with a comment on society today, it cannot be made," Zhang said in an interview. "In China you're not allowed to make anything you want."

Such is the plight of a generation of young Chinese directors whose movies are more sophisticated than the Socialist realism still favoured in their country.

Their films, depicting complex human conflicts and using modern filming techniques, consistently win awards abroad while being banned, cut or criticised at home.

Already precarious because of lack of support from both audiences and authorities, the situation has worsened since the government stifled the

pro-democracy movement a year ago.

Zhang's last movie, *Red Sorghum*, won an award at the Berlin Film Festival in 1988 along with one of China's top film prizes, the hundred flowers award for Best Feature Film. The film drew more than 200 million spectators in China.

It stirred great controversy in China because it depicted the unglorious life of wine-making peasants during the Japanese invasion of the 1930s and '40s in graphic and earthy detail. One scene shows the hero urinating in a vat of Sorghum wine. Another implies rape.

For Zhang, getting *Ju Dou* to Cannes was a triumph in itself. The film, set in the 1920s and based on a true story, was made after the bloody crackdown on pro-democracy demonstrators last June 4.

Following the crackdown, Chinese film studios, all government-funded and controlled, were warned to avoid anything with ideological overtones and were required to hold political study classes for their employees.

In February, film authorities declared that anything considered harmful to socialism would be eliminated in the planning stages.

Only Polish films excite Cannes award winning actress

By Mark Trevelyan
Reuters

WARSAW — Krystyna Janda has the film world at her feet — but the woman voted Best Actress at Europe's top film festival says only Polish movie roles excite her.

Janda, 37, won the award at last month's Cannes Film Festival for "Interrogation", a film she feared would never be shown after Poland's Communist authorities banned it in 1982.

Despite working extensively in the West, she says only Polish directors have brought out the best in her and no themes fire her imagination like those of her native country.

"I've never encountered any directors in the West who could heat me up to the temperature I normally work at...I haven't come across any subject in the West that really grabs me," Janda told a rare news conference in Warsaw to mark her Cannes triumph.

"Every time I played in Poland it was also my personal statement about the country in which I, my children and my parents live... in Poland I don't pay any attention to how long the shooting

lasts, what kind of sacrifices I have to make, it doesn't matter."

Tall, blonde and brimming with nervous energy, Janda is renowned for a string of sharply political films which chronicle Poland's agonised history from the Stalinist 1950s to the Solidarity decade of the 1980s.

She made an explosive debut in 1976 in Andrzej Wajda's *Man of Marble*, playing a young reporter probing Communist distortion and propaganda in the 1950s, and starred again in the sequel *Man of Iron*.

In *Interrogation*, filmed in 1981 with director Ryszard Bugajski, Janda plays an innocent woman arrested by security police in the 1950s. Imprisoned without trial, she is beaten, kicked, abused and nearly drowned by interrogators seeking information about a former lover and trying to extract a false confession.

"I was asked if it hurt when they were beating me in Interrogation. That always brought a smile to my face because I didn't remember. It hurt, but it didn't matter," she said.

Janda's character, Antonina, fights a battle of wills with

her interrogators, refusing to be broken even when they threaten her at gunpoint and hurl her into a cellar where water is pumped in until it reaches her nostrils.

In the end it is they, not her, who crack.

The Communist authorities let Bugajski shoot some scenes in Warsaw's Rakowiecka Prison even after martial law was declared on Dec. 13, 1981, but banned the film as soon as it was finished.

Thousands of Poles saw it on clandestine videos circulated in the Solidarity underground. But *Interrogation* remained banned longer than any other film of the early 1980s, receiving its first public showing only last September.

"I used to be a pessimist, I used to think that I wouldn't see that film on screen in my lifetime," Janda said.

"People keep asking me if I have any feeling of revenge for these lost eight years or anything to say to the people who were responsible. No I have no such intention. I'm very happy that it's all over and I could receive the prize now and that the film was shown," she added.

Though Janda speaks French and German and has

made 10 films abroad, she said she never worked with such passion as in Polish movies under directors like Bugajski and Wajda.

She is optimistic that Polish film-makers, freed from censorship by the new Solidarity-led government but forced to scramble for funds in a harsh financial climate, can continue to make an impact on world cinema.

Janda points to the example of Krzysztof Kieslowski, whose *Short Film About Killing* and *Short Film About Love* won huge critical acclaim without straining for commercial success.

"I think Kieslowski's example is very instructive: he achieved success and status by quietly making movies in Poland, not trying to raise funds to film abroad, without studying what people in the West are thinking and what kind of films to make to please them..."

"It seems that what we are doing here, maintaining our identity, our temperament, our way of storytelling, our ugliness even, our egoism — it has to be done that way and it still has its own identity and can be understood."

Janda has just finished



Krystyna Janda

shooting a new film, *Polish Cuisine*, which like *Interrogation* is set in the 1950s. She plays the British wife of a Polish wartime pilot and promises "something new in the spectrum of films about the Stalinist period."

Now she wants to make another film with Wajda — even though the director, now

a member of the Polish senate, has told her he has no film plans for the next two years. And after playing a string of tough, single-minded characters, she wants a more feminine part next time.

"I would like to make another film with Andrzej — and I want to play a woman," Janda said.

Marcel Carne -- a great figure in French cinema

By Pierre Albert Lambert

PARIS — Marcel Carne has made 23 films several of which are masterpieces. The French Cinema Museum (Cinematheque) has just paid him great homage. A museum in the United States is named after him, as well as a cinema in Japan and a square in the French provinces. At the age of 82, this lively, rotund little man, whose name is the anagram of the French word for screen, "ecran," still dreams of gluing his eye to the viewfinder of a movie-camera and of shouting "Shoot!"

In his book *La Vie a Belles Dents* (published by Bel-fond), he evoked his childhood in a working-class district of the French capital and his early fascination for the cinema of Chaplin, Murnau and Fritz Lang. For him, following on after his father as a cabinet-maker was out of the question. He would make his life "in cinema."

At the age of 20, he was

already Jacques Feyder's assistant in *Les Nouveaux Messieurs*. At 22, he joined the team of Rene Clair who was making *Sous les Toits de Paris*. Then Feyder asked for him again for *Le Grand Jeu*. These were fertile years. The young film-maker developed his style. He excelled at creating an atmosphere, at playing with back-lighting, at beautifully lighting up a woman's

face.

After a short film in 1933: *Nogent, Eldorado du Dimanche*, which Jean Renoir was to use as a complement to *La Vie Est a Nous*, Carne made his first feature film, *Jenny* (1936). With the actors Françoise Rosay, Albert Prejean and Charles Vanel, this original, intimist work was the start of a fruitful collaboration with the poet, and scenario and dialogue writer Jacques Prevert.

Then, in 1937, he made *Drôle de Drame* in which humour contends with burlesque. This film was served by great actors, notably Michel Simon, J.L. Barrault and Louis Jouvet.

In 1938, he made *Quai Des Brumes*, adapted by Prevert from a novel by Mac Orlan. Jean Gabin played opposite Michèle Morgan ("You've got nice eyes, you know!") and found one of his most famous roles in it. It was the first display of Carné-style poetic

realism with mist, grey weather and wet paving stones. A classic of the screen.

In the same year, again with Prevert, Carné finished *Hôtel du Nord*, a depiction of a Paris working-class milieu, based on a work by the novelist Eugène Dabit. The Jouvet-Arletty pair were a huge success, with the latter instilling her bantering and funniness into the film. (*Atmosphere, Atmosphere!*)

In *Le Jour Se Lève* (1939) the director fills his hero with tragic grandeur. Gabin plays a man who commits murder out of love. He is besieged in his room by the police as he relives his past. This is an important film for cinema historians. The flashback was used in it for the first time in France.

Despite the difficulties of the 1939-1945 period, the director made two of his finest films. First of all, *Les visiteurs Du Soir* (1942), a series of flamboyant tableaux, plung-

ing the spectator into a Middle Ages of legend. Arletty is in it again, and Jules Berry acts the part of the devil.

In 1944, Carné continued with *Les Enfants Du Paradis*, one of the finest productions ever made. It was a panorama film, with 2,000 extras, served by the best actors of the period, in which he showed crowds, fêtes and the dramas of "crime boulevard" in Balzac's time.

With the return of peace, Italian neo-realism and then the "new wave" pushed the directors of the "golden age of French cinema" into oblivion. Yet, some of Carné's new films are not devoid of interest: *Les Portes de la Nuit*, *Juliette Ou la Cle des Songes*, *Thérèse Raquin*, *Les Tricheurs*, and *Les Jeunes Loups* still bear his special mark, even if the director goes against his old themes. But times have changed.

For 15 years, Carne has made no more films. Projects

clutter up his drawers. He is particularly attached one of them: a film about the impressionist painters in which he would show the Grenouillere river bathing place and the Moulin de la Galette windmill at the time of Renoir, Monet and Manpassant, and for which he would recreate the "Dejeuner des Canotiers" (boatmen's lunch, a painting by Renoir). The estimated budget is thirty million francs, but producers say it is too expensive.

Whether he makes a comeback to the studios or not, Marcel Carne will remain one of the great figures of world cinema. François Truffaut, who had been the leader of the "new wave" and who had, formerly, savagely criticised him, paid him fine homage a few days before he died in 1984. He publicly declared: "I would give all my films, without exception, to have signed Les Enfants du Paradis" *L'Actualite en France*.



Marcel Carne

Lasers erase years of anxiety

By Philippa Neave

WESTCHESTER, New York — For over 40 years Dominick Netty was plagued by something that he thought would never go away: a dark-red birthmark that covered most of the right side of his face. Known as a port-wine stain, the mark made his life a misery. "I have been aware of it ever since I can remember," he says. "Children are cruel, they used to point at me, call me names like 'red-face'." "Now 45, he still recalls being turned down by a girl he had invited to a school dance, and says he felt a "psychological mess."

Today his face shows only a slight redness which could pass unnoticed. For the past two years, Netty has been undergoing treatment with a new type of laser that has produced spectacular results on him and other patients; 85 per cent of his birthmark is gone.

Until only a few years ago, very little could be done for people born with port-wine stains. They were condemned to using a special type of thick makeup, which, says Netty, on a man always looked bad: "I would be afraid that under a certain light it would show and it never looked right when we would take pictures with the family."

Little is known about what causes port-wine stains. They are not genetically passed on

from one generation to the other, and there are cases in which one of a set of newborn twins is marked and the other is not. The physical cause is blood vessels lying very close to the surface of the skin that are distended. It can occur anywhere on the body and can be almost unnoticeable or very dramatic, in extreme cases covering 70 per cent of the body.

Netty is one of at least 1,000 patients treated by Dr. Gary Brauner, a dermatologist who is widely considered a pioneer in the use of laser technology in treating skin ailments. "We are using many different types of lasers to treat different types of conditions," explains Brauner, who has his own practice and also works at Westchester Medical Centre, north of New York city. The centre is one of the most advanced in the United States and is one of only three in the country to have three different types of laser-beam equipment for use in dermatology, including a state-of-the-art model that it acquired only three months ago.

The newest laser equipment works faster, is less painful than the older models and has reduced the risk of complications. Though it doesn't replace other lasers, it holds great promise in the treatment of birthmarks.

"The first laser to be used in dermatology was the Aragon laser in the 1960s. It was

not used much to treat birthmarks until 1972, but since then it has been used on thousands of patients," Brauner explained, adding that the Aragon laser works by emitting a blue-green light ray that is absorbed by the oxygen-bearing red cells in the blood. "The intense energy put out by the ray is transformed into heat, so you get a very intense burning of the blood in the vessel. It works from the inside out. The blood vessel and so do the tissues around it. The heat burns its way out to the surface of the skin."

The Aragon laser is also used to treat brown birthmarks known as "cafe au lait" stains, which are caused by excessive exposure to the sun, freckles, or so-called liver spots. It is used most commonly, however, to treat red lesions such as port-wine stains and "burst" vessels on the nose or cheeks. Technically the vessels haven't "burst" but have been distended. The affliction is common and is caused by various factors, such as inherited tendency, and certain diseases.

The latest and possibly most promising laser for people with port-wine stains is the "Flash-Lamp Pulsed Dye Laser," which emits a yellow ray in single pulses at short intervals. The yellow ray is better absorbed by the blood and the intensity of the burn is lower. "There is less heat dissipation

from the blood vessel and therefore less injury to the outer layer of the skin," and less pain, Brauner said, which makes the treatment easier to bear for children.

Another advantage of the Pulsed Dye laser over the Aragon is that it works faster. "The Aragon laser is a lot of work. The bursts are only 1 millimetre or 1.5mm in diameter. For a skin area of 4 x 6 inches, you need 5,000 bursts. It takes about one hour; it is very painstaking and labour-intensive," the 46-year-old doctor said. "The other problem is that the burn area can become infected and leave a very thick, unsightly scar."

The Pulsed Dye laser is felt like a light pinprick, according to Brauner. "Injury to the outer layer of the skin is minimal so there is no secondary risk of infection. The laser also covers a much larger area and is therefore much faster. The only problem is that it has to be repeated multiple times over the same area, but this can be done because the area heals so quickly."

Midway between the Aragon and Pulsed Dye lasers is the "Copper-Vapour" laser, which also emits a yellow ray. "This works not with one pulse but with 15,000 tiny pulses per second. It has been in use for about three years and is more effective than the Aragon laser on blood-vessel-type marks," Brauner noted.



Her face disfigured by a dark-red birthmark, this patient of Dr. Gary Brauner had lost hope of leading a normal life.

Another type of laser, invented in 1974 and widely used for the past 10 years, is known as the carbon dioxide laser. "It has an invisible beam and is mostly used to cut off growths because it seals the blood vessels and not cause bleeding," said Brauner. It has a wide variety of medical uses, but in dermatology it is most effective in treating recurring scarlike growths known as keloids as well as large stubborn warts, including genital warts.

Laser technology holds great promise because it doesn't emit harmful ultraviolet light or cancer-causing X-rays. Weeks-old infants have been treated with it, and

it has been suggested that port-wine stains, which grow thicker and darker with age, could be treated earlier, which would prevent psychological scarring. Other applications include the treatment of red growths known as "strawberry marks" that appear in childhood. Although these almost always disappear by the age of 7, they can have serious consequences when they appear in areas such as the mouth, the nose or eye.

The Pulsed Dye laser is also effective in removing tattoos, although the relatively high cost of the intervention may deter some would-be patients. Depending on the type of



After treatment with a new type of laser used in dermatology, this patient of Dr. Brauner saw her birthmark disappear almost completely.

laser used and the surface area of the mark, the cost of treating one square inch of skin ranges between \$150 and \$350. This is partly explained by the cost of the laser equipment itself — from \$30,000 to \$35,000 for an Aragon, \$110,000 for a Copper-Vapour laser, and \$160,000 for a Pulsed Dye laser, which also requires costly maintenance.

Although results are generally spectacular, Brauner always warns his patients not to expect miracles. "In 10 per cent of patients treated with the Aragon, the mark is entirely gone," he said. "With the Pulsed Dye laser we can reduce the mark by half in one

session, and it is 70 per cent better after three sessions."

For Netty, though, the treatment was nothing short of a miracle: "This has changed my life. I feel more self-confident. Before, I wouldn't leave the house without makeup; now I don't have any on. It has enabled me to do so many more things, I am free of that awful psychological pattern," he concluded.

Another of Brauner's patients is going through with the treatment at 76 years of age. "I've been trying to have something done all my life," she said. "This is the most beautiful thing in the world." — World News Link.

AIDS comes to Malaysia

No more a 'Western' disease

By Helen Todd

PENANG, Malaysia — When a doctor in Sydney, Australia told Mohan he had AIDS, he tried to break up the office. "You're lying!" Mohan screamed, "I'm a Malaysian. Asians don't get AIDS!"

When Mohan's family flew him home to Malaysia and he went into hospital, he was examined by doctors and health department officials.

"They kept bugging me about my 'foreign contacts'. They wanted me to tell them I had got it from a foreigner. They just didn't want to know that I had caught it here, from another Malaysian," he said.

Mohan believes he caught the virus as a teenager from one of his Malaysian homosexual lovers. By the time he was diagnosed in Australia he already had acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS) related complex, with weight loss and lumps in his neck.

"I got the disease because I was ignorant. Like everyone else I thought I couldn't get it. I thought it was a Western disease."

Until very recently, Malaysian officials seemed to share this comfortable misconception. They thought of AIDS as a foreign disease. They thought that the risk group was confined to a few homosexual men who had lived in the permissive West.

It could never be a Malaysian problem. Public opinion still thinks so.

For most of the 1980s, the statistics supported these assumptions. A small group of haemophiliacs were infected before the Ministry of Health began screening blood in 1984. Otherwise, only two people with AIDS and seven people with HIV were detected up to January 1988, most of them homosexual men who had spent time abroad.

But a dramatic increase in the number of detected carriers has swept away these assumptions. AIDS is no longer a "foreign" disease. It is no longer even a "gay" disease. Suddenly it is a Malaysian problem.

Although total numbers are still small, the number of detected carriers jumped eightfold in six months, from 26 HIV-positive people and eight AIDS cases in June last year to 159 people with HIV and 12 AIDS cases in January.

The great majority of recently detected carriers are heterosexual males and addicts using needles. A recent death was a woman who worked as a prostitute in Kuala Lumpur.

It looks as though Malaysia may be following a couple of years in the wake of Thailand, its northern neighbour, in a dangerous pattern whereby

HIV spreads initially through people sharing contaminated needles and the sex industry.

The Thai experience is that AIDS explodes among needle users once it gains a foothold. Of more than 2,000 addicts in Malaysia tested up to September last year, 2.4 per cent tested HIV positive. Between 20 to 25 per cent of addicts are intravenous drug users, who can pass HIV through infected needles.

Malaysia does not have a sex industry anything near the size and popularity of Thailand. But there is an underground of bars and brothels in every town, intertwined with the drug culture. Most female addicts work as prostitutes, as do the wives and girlfriends of many male addicts.

In addition, an estimated 3,000 men cross the border to the brothel towns of southern Thailand every weekend — although the number of "shoppers" has dropped since the press began running stories about AIDS among the Thai prostitutes.

Malaysia's social conservatism may limit such behaviour compared with Thailand and so lower the AIDS risk. But it also undermines government AIDS efforts. Condom advertisements are banned in Malaysia. "How many people are going to die before government is brave enough to mention the word 'condom'?" asks Mohan.

Mohan was rescued from despair by a self-help group, the Pink Triangle, set up by gay (homosexual) men to provide counselling. The Pink Triangle runs an AIDS hotline five nights a week and has already trained more than 50 volunteer counsellors, including Mohan. It arranges confidential blood tests and has a buddy system for people with AIDS.

The Pink Triangle, an articulate and cohesive group, claims to have reached most of the homosexual men in the Kuala Lumpur area. "Most gays are now using condoms and practising safer sex. I think we have the situation under control," a spokesman said.

Mohan, working from a small flat in Kuala Lumpur, is trying to keep another 24-hour hotline open with only two volunteers. He is worried about what is happening outside the gay community.

He argues that the government will have to give more explicit information to the general public and more direct help to non-governmental organisations (NGO) which can reach the high-risk groups.

"If government does not change its policy, AIDS will go underground and it will explode," he said — PANOS features

An act of madness

Attack on Lafontaine focuses attention on schizophrenia

The woman who attacked Social Democrat politician Oskar Lafontaine is unlikely to stand trial. Adelheid Streidel has a history of mental illness. She is a schizophrenic. The knife attack which came within a fraction of an inch of killing Lafontaine was a premeditated act planned in detail. In this article for Die Zeit, the writer looks at the illness of schizophrenia and at a dispute over methods of treatment.

By Hans Harald Brantigam

IT could have been a scene from a Shakespearean drama: a white-clad woman, a cheering rostrum, two bouquets of flowers, a butcher's knife and a lot of blood. That was the picture at a political rally last month in Cologne when the woman attacked the Social Democrat politician, Oskar Lafontaine. The knife came within millimetres of severing his jugular.

At issue here is the strange mental illness of schizophrenia. Because most schizophrenics live in social isolation, few are aware of them. But there are an estimated 600,000 of them (Schizzein, to cleave, and phren, mind, are from the Greek).

Like diabetes, one per cent of the population is affected. Also like diabetes, it is inheritable in ways which have still not been explained. The risk for children of schizophrenic parents is large — between five and 10 per cent where one parent is afflicted and almost 50 per cent where both are.

Mannheim psychiatrist Heinz Häfner, director of the Central Institute of Mental Health, sees in the disease not the homogenous syndromes envisaged by a German, Emil Kraepelin, in 1919, but instead "specific neuro-biological types of reaction of a schizophrenic psychosis." These could be anchored, not only in genetically caused predisposition but also in psychological and socio-economic factors.

For such psychiatrists, the results of modern neurobiological research into neurotransmitters for the treatment of schizophrenic psychosis is illuminating. Norbert Matussek, of the psychiatric clinic attached to Munich University, sees a cause of the production of psychotic symptoms in patients with predispositions in the overproduction of dopamine substances in the

brain cells of the central nervous system.

After regular doses of cerebral stimulants of the amine group, substances which increase both mental and physical capabilities (and which also carry the risk of addiction) symptoms of insanity develop even among patients who are not schizophrenic. These stimulants lead to the body producing an increased amount of dopamine. This biogenic amine plays an important role for such functions of the central nervous system as intellectual awareness and also provides a filtering process for external or internal stimulations. We can thank this neurochemical for our ability to concentrate fully.

But if the filtration process collapses because of an overproduction of dopamine, this can lead further to a collapse of information-processing. Irrational inner feelings can develop; it might be that Jesus or the KGB are giving orders or transmitting death rays. The products of these hallucinations are always threatening.

Among the clinical picture of acute psychotic schizophrenia belongs dismembered capabilities of perception. A person with acute schizophrenia can recognise his environment, house, perhaps parents or other relatives, but see the threatening forces within them. The mentally ill person is capable of isolated patches of orderly thinking. He or she handles specific tasks with energy and does not allow anything to distract from the plan if it is rooted within this type of derangement. The completion of the aim releases the sufferer from an intolerable pressure and causes him or her to appear happy and relaxed.

Diagnosing schizophrenia is difficult, so mistakes are not rare. Unless a victim commits some act, a person suffering from a paranoid persecution complex can be so inconspicuous that sometimes it

doesn't even occur to doctors what is wrong. That what happened to the employer of Adelheid Streidel, the woman who attacked Lafontaine, is a Cologne internal medicine specialist who just didn't recognise what was wrong.

Her "inner feelings" had compelled her to follow unwaveringly the deluded trail to kill a prominent politician. She planned everything in detail. In Neuenahr, where she lived, she ordered a taxi to take her to Cologne, and she bought a butcher's knife and flowers. The flowers were less of a way of her world of deranged thinking: flowers for the grave. The way she executed the action, the placing of the knife so that it missed severing the jugular by mere millimetres was precise and gives an idea of the enormous pathological energy which a person living inside this world of madness can bring to bear.

This attack is certain to give new life to discussion about schizophrenia. Has enough been done to protect both the sick person and the healthy? The call to throw mentally disturbed people into the "loony bin" will be raised again; and the Lafontaine attack will be blamed on those doctors who have come out in favour of psychiatric reform. There will be talk about the "irresponsibility" of modern ideas of treatment by those who place psychological, social and socio-economic factors among the main reasons for the development of schizophrenic psychosis.

Some neurologists and psychologists regard the results of neurobiological research with suspicion. They say that the deranged have become that way because of a harsh and inhospitable environment and that treatment has degenerated to a matter of using drugs and abandoning patients to their own devices.

Social therapists and psychotherapists, they say, are in short supply in regional psychiatric clinics and are not available at all at the psychiatrists' private practices. Treatment using drugs did not heal but often even had the effect of making the person really ill for the first time, say these critics of conventional

psychiatry.

Beyond question, are the considerable side effects of the neuroleptic drugs developed by the Belgian, Paul Janssen. The mechanics of both effects and side-effects are neuro-biologically clearly established. These substances, related to butyrophenones, block the dopamine receptors at the switch centres of the dopamine nerve tracts. Their effect as an anti psychotic medicine supports the hypothesis that the impaired functions of the neurotransmitters is connected with the outbreak of psychotic conditions in the schizophrenic person: through neuroleptic drugs, the "positive symptoms" of the psychosis are reduced. Neurologists class hallucinations and agitation as positive symptoms. The negative signs, social withdrawal and lack of sexual drive, are not influenced by neuroleptic drugs.

Physical side effects of anti psychotic medicines include extrapyramidal symptoms, muscle cramp around the mouth (the Schmäuzchen Syndrome) and strong motoric disturbance. Patients incessantly move hands or feet. The often continuous treatment can damage the liver. In view of this, it is not surprising that patients often break off drug treatment.

Acute symptoms do not always develop as a result. If they do, and if doctors or relatives notice, they are limited in what they can do. The law allows the sufferer himself to make a decision on whether to resume treatment or not. This is the problem. The ill person often does not know he or she is sick. A refusal to resume treatment can be reversed only by court order.

Klaus Böhm, professor of psychiatry and head of the Ochsenzoll hospital in Hamburg, knows the difficulties of obtaining such a court order. He remarks grimly that judges are afraid that critics will object on the grounds that certain attached conditions infringe personal liberty. The patient is not allowed to leave the area where he or she lives and regular medical examinations must be made.

China learning how to deal with AIDS

By Charlene L. Fu
The Associated Press

KUNMING, China — Xiong Rucheng remembers the day he and his colleagues at the Yunnan Public Health Bureau learned that drug addicts near the border with Burma had contracted AIDS.

"No one could believe it," said Xiong, chairman of the bureau's Foreign Affairs Office. "How could China have AIDS?"

They sent the report to the Ministry of Public Health in Peking, which didn't believe it either.

"They said, 'we'll help you clear this up,'" Xiong said.

But after testing the 50 samples three times, "they finally believed us."

Since that batch was analysed last September, 146 drug

addicts out of nearly 6,000 tested have been found to carry the HIV virus, he said.

Previously, only seven Chinese were known to have contracted acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS), which lethally weakens the body's immune system, making it susceptible to infections.

The seven Chinese were hemophiliacs infected by contaminated blood products, or had contracted AIDS overseas or through homosexual relations with a foreigner.

Yunnan's AIDS victims were intravenous drug addicts who used contaminated needles.

Chinese health authorities had targeted the coastal cities, where contact with foreigners is most common, in their efforts to prevent AIDS from entering China.

"How did they know that it would be found in far-off Yunnan, a minority area, where the people are honest and unsophisticated? How could such a place have contracted the most frightening disease of the modern age?" said Xiong. Yunnan, in southern China, is a poor remote, mountainous province that is home to nearly half of China's minority groups.

Almost all the victims were found in Ruili prefecture, a frontier area in western Yunnan on the Burmese border that is closed to foreigners. Chinese visitors describe it as a wild, dangerous place full of traders and smugglers from Nepal, Pakistan, Laos and Burma.

In Ruili, drug users prefer injecting the more refined heroin to smoking the historical-

ly popular opium, Xiong said. Fully 80 per cent of the AIDS carriers are of the Dai minority. Only one is a woman. She and five of the men are Burmese traders. None have begun showing symptoms.

The discovery has caught Chinese health workers so much by surprise that they are not sure what to do about the AIDS victims.

The 146 "continue to lead normal lives," said Xiong. In fact, they have not been told that they have AIDS.

He said health officials are afraid the victims will be discriminated against and ostracised if their identities are known. They want to finalise plans for treatment before identifying the victims — probably by the end of the year, Xiong said.

RJ explains its financial status

IN AN ATTEMPT to verify the 1988 and 1989 financial status of Royal Jordanian, the Jordan News Agency, Petra contacted Mr. Omar Zoqash, the RJ's executive vice-president for finance and investments.

The airline executive stated that RJ was committed to submit an annual financial report to the 37 international banks dealing in the financing of the airline. Such a financial statement clearly defines the airline's operational and financial status within the international accounting systems used by all international carriers. The airline financial report is also accredited as a primary tool in maintaining the continuity between the airline's financing needs and the international banking system.

The 1988 annual report was delayed due to the sharp drop in the dinar rate of exchange to the dollar.

Zoqash said the airline could not at the time identify how to deal with the losses incurred. The airline management decided to release the financial report of 1988 by the end of 1989 without any qualifications and the same was submitted to the proper government agencies for approval, he said.

In the meantime, the airline informed the banks that it will issue the 1989 financial report not later than the end of March 1990 and to go ahead and release the 1988 and 1989 financial reports together and both were actually released by April 1, 1990.

The move, Zoqash added, has boosted the support of the international banks to continue financing Royal Jordanian's fleet requirements.

Zoqash illustrated the financial and operational results for 1988 as submitted in the following form:

Operating results		
	1988	1989
Number of Passengers	1,225,934	1,204,005
Cargo (tons)	49,842	49,717
Ex. baggage (tons)	1,124	885
Mail (tons)	812	782
Hours flown	51,866	53,527
Seat factor	60.9%	61.9%
Load factor	53.6%	54.8%

Financial results (in million JD)		
	1988	1989
Revenue	109.6	172.1
Revenue scheduled services	6.6	12.6
Charter lease	6.9	
Other revenue		

	1988	1989
Total revenue	123.1	197.3

Expenses		
	1988	1989
Operating expenses	142.8	195.1
Net profit (loss) operations	(19.7)	2.2
Net profit (loss) non operation	(67.9)	(8)
Net profit (loss)	(87.6)	1.4

The non-operating losses of JD 67.9 million in 1988 represents loss of foreign exchange due to the devaluation of the dinar and certain adjustments for previous years plus a difference from the application of a newly accredited accounting system for 1988 lease treatment.

Zoqash referred to RJ's debts and financial obligations due on leased aircraft and gave the following figures:

Outstanding of loans and financial obligations as on May 31, 1990.		
	1988	1989
(1) Long term - external loans (million)		\$125.3
(2) Short term - external loans (million)		\$56.8
Total		\$182.8

	(in JD at 675 fils to the dollar =)	122.9
(3) Local obligations in JD		29.1
Total in JD		208.9

Royal Jordanian lease obligations

Royal Jordanian is applying two lease methods which are internationally used by a large number of international airlines.

One: Operational lease where periodical lease payments are paid and the lessee has nothing to do with the ownership of the fleet. The financial obligations in this method is equal to the periodical lease payments. In the case of Royal Jordanian the following is applied:

- Three Boeing 727s at monthly lease payment equal to \$182,500.00 on each aircraft until March 1991.
- Three Boeing 707F (freighters) at a monthly lease of \$100,000.00 per aircraft until June 1992.

Two: Financial lease (capital lease) where periodical payments are affected and the ownership is transferred to the lessee at the end of the lease period.

In this method the lessee has the option to buy the aircraft at any time by payment of financial residual value. In the case of Royal Jordanian this method is applied as follows:

Residual value as 31/5/1990 in million dollars		
1- Six Airbus A310-300 leased for 12 years		377
2- Five Tristar - 500 leased for 5 years		127
3- Two Airbus A320 leased for 12 years		80
Total		584

The market values of these 13 aircraft as per Avmark evaluation is over \$600 million.

The total monthly lease payments due on them is \$7.5 million. The third Airbus A320 will be delivered by the end of this year.

Three: Royal Jordanian owns a Tristar L1011-500 mortgaged to Exim Bank and the outstanding balance of this loan is \$21 million. The amount is included in the financial obligation/long term external loans.

As it clearly shows in Royal Jordanian balance sheet of 1988 and 1989 that total assets exceed total liability, although the value of the network, traffic rights, good will and other intangible assets such as years of experience are not included.

Zoqash continued to say that RJ has been facing a cash deficit during the last few years due to the following factors:

1. Very small paid capital.
2. Borrowing to finance cash deficit.
3. Unpaid debt due to RJ totalled at 24 million JD.
4. Young fleet, averaging by the end of 1990, 4 years, the youngest in the industry.

Royal Jordanian in November 1989 received clear cut directives from the government to conduct all its operations and transactions on a purely commercial basis. The airline, Zoqash explained, has adopted a 1990 operational plan based on the following strategies:

1. Restructuring of the airline network by suspension of certain routes. Los Angeles, Chicago, Miami, Athens, Copenhagen and Bucharest routes were suspended. The cross Trans-Atlantic flights to New York dropped to four weekly. Far East routes decreased to two flights, Bangkok and two flights Singapore and Kuala Lumpur.

A number of Gulf flights were combined as well as others in Europe.

2. Restructuring of the fleet based on one above.
3. Optimisation of the lease transactions and financing.
4. Profitability sector by sector and the network as a whole.
5. Reducing overheads.
6. Improving yield and seat factor.

The management early this year started implementing this strategy and feel confident that 1990 will reflect positive results.

Medicine

(Continued from page 1)

multitude of aspects involved," said an importer and distributor who estimated the worth of medicines held up during the dispute at between JD 4 million and JD 6 million.

The dispute arose in early March after a pricing arrangement between the authorities and importers expired, leaving no specific guidelines for determining the exchange rate for foreign currencies involved, according to importers. Under the earlier system, which was adopted in July 1989 and valid for six months, the prices were set by the Ministry of Health on the basis of the exchange rate for the dinar on the day of clearance of the consignment from the customs department. The system was extended until Feb. 28 and all medicines which arrived in Jordan until that date were priced on the basis of the prevailing exchange rates.

However, after the deadline expired, the ministry sought to set the exchange rate lower than that set by the Central Bank of Jordan, according to a representative of the 45 or so importers of medicines. The importers argued that such a rate would result in heavy losses. The dispute hit its peak when importers refused to clear and sell their goods and lose.

To break the deadlock, importers staged meetings with ministry officials in a bid to reach some kind of agreement. The special "arbitration" panel was created in late March after the issue was taken informally to the Lower House of Parliament; this panel produced the May 30 agreement.

The Ministry of Health agreed to accept the exchange rate set by the Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) on June 2, 1990 (674 fils in the dollar) while giving imported medicines. In return, the importers agreed to reduce the prices by four to 16 per cent on a mutually agreed categorisation of medicines.

Under this agreement, the prices of all "originator" medicines (products of companies which have the first-formula rights) will be reduced by four per cent if there are two similar products manufactured in Jordan, and by eight per cent if there are three or more similar local products. The reduction is between eight and 12 per cent for medicines that are similar to "originators" but with a different brand name, and 16 per cent on cough preparations, multi-vitamins without therapeutic use, and medicines for fever and painkillers.

This categorisation, seen as a "last-resort" formula to break the deadlock, "will lead to ambiguities and pricing problems," said the sales manager of a leading importer and distributor. "The authorities may deem some of the products as 'banded' while for us they are 'originators'. Again, the grouping 'similar local products' could also be very ambiguous."

All imported medicines are free from customs duties except a five per cent import licence charge. Antibiotics are exempt from the licence charge. An additional two per cent duty on all imported medicines has been eliminated.

According to industry sources, Jordan imports over 1,500 different kinds of medicines worth JD 12 to JD 14 million every year and the May 30 agreement clears the way for gradually eliminating about 700 of them.

Under the new formula, prices are calculated from the basic landed cost (cost plus freight), 1.5 per cent inland freight, four per cent wholesalers' administrative expenses, 15 per cent wholesalers' gross profit, six per cent pharmacists' administrative expenses, and 20 per cent gross profit for pharmacists.

"The wholesalers will shoulder the actual burden," said Taber Shakhshir an importer and distributor who was one of the 12 private sector businessmen involved in the negotiations. "They will continue to supply products to the pharmacies with the prices already stamped on them and offer a 26 per cent discount on the invoice value."

Orphans - the victims of Romanian bureaucracy

By David Tucker
Reuters

BUCHAREST — Antoinette is a sad-eyed teenager trapped by bureaucracy in a Bucharest children's home.

On the other side of the city eight-month-old Florin, who has tested positive for the AIDS virus, is one of a dozen babies lying in steel-mesh cots in an isolation ward at St. Catherine's Children's home.

There are many such children in Romania.

Antoinette is wanted. An Italian couple, both doctors, are trying to adopt the 13-year-old, but earlier this month her mother stole her birth certificate.

Romanian law says that if a child's mother or father are known their permission must be obtained before adoption can take place.

For Florin there is little hope of any life in an environment other than that which he shares with the other children who have the HIV virus.

There are hundreds, perhaps thousands, like him but the stigma and fear of anything to do with AIDS runs deep in Romanian society.

"The situation of our children is tragic," said Dr. Ion Ursuleanu, Director of St. Catherine's.

"I understand the reluctance of some mothers to have their children adopted... but mothers who

refuse their children the chance of a better life are criminals..." he said.

Ursuleanu said that since last December's revolution which swept dictator Nicolae Ceausescu from power, 200 children had been adopted — many by childless Romanian couples.

"There are 480 children here now. More than 60 per cent of them are trapped because their mothers won't let them go."

"In some cases we have children who have been here since a few days after birth, their parents have never visited them and never will," Ursuleanu said.

He said families from Ireland, Britain, France, Italy, the United States and New Zealand were trying to adopt Romanian children.

"It is terrible that so many of our children are in this limbo," he said, "the law should be changed to take away the right of a mother to control the life of a child she might not have seen since birth."

Health Ministry officials say there are 15,000 children under three years of age in state homes throughout Romania.

The Red Cross says that there are another 40,000, aged up to six in other institutions. Numbers for those above six are unclear.

"Our children are disadvantaged right from the start. Only one per cent of them will ever get to university, compared to 10 per cent for those who have a normal upbringing," Ursuleanu said.

Barry Child, of the British-based Romanian orphanage Trust, told Reuters in Bucharest that the number of abandoned children and orphans in Romania was gradually declining.

"One orphanage in Bucharest has closed and another one is going that way."

"Part of this improvement because more are being adopted and part because birth control and abortion are now available," he said.

The trust has four teams of volunteers working in Romanian orphanages and three more on the way.

"Nine hundred people in the U.K. put in applications to come here. Things are better now there is no malnutrition for instance," Child said.

Reformist Romania blames the high number of orphans and abandoned children on Ceausescu's policy of creating a high birth-rate.

Contraception was illegal and anti-abortion police frequently raided factories and workshops to check that new pregnancies hadn't been terminated.

"The (Ceausescu) government didn't care what happened to the children even if it meant they had to be given up," said a young Romanian woman.

"Most of the children were abandoned because people were poor and mothers were forced in some situations to give birth against their will."

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Intifada committee denounces swindle

By Joumana Halasa
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The National Popular Committee for the Support of the Intifada

Wednesday denounced a swindling operation by confidence-tricksters who posed as the committee's representatives and collected funds from people.

"It is a totally dishonourable action against our national cause," said Dr. Mamdouh Abbadi, co-chairman of the committee, addressing a press conference called to explain the circumstances of the case, which surfaced through local newspapers earlier this week.

The reports had said that as much as JD 200,000 could have been collected by a group of swindlers from people within Jordan and outside on the pretext that the money would be channelled by the popular

committee to the occupied territories to support the intifada.

According to Abbadi, the group had collected only JD 981, and reports indicating any other figure were "totally wrong."

Abbadi, who is also president of the Jordan Medical Association, explained that he had come across the swindling operation when a committee official reported to him that an employee of an advertising agency, which was printing and selling tickets for events scheduled during an intifada week earlier this year, was in possession of receipt books purportedly belong to the committee.

The matter was reported to police, who investigated the affair and found that two of the receipts were originally given to the suspect, identified as M.Y.F., with the understanding that those who would

like to contribute to the intifada instead of buying tickets for intifada week events could do so through the advertising agency, according to Abbadi.

The suspect forged another 18 books and collected an amount of JD 981 by using six of the books, Abbadi told the press conference.

Upon further interrogation, the 20-year-old suspect admitted that he had been collecting money not only from Jordan but also from elsewhere in the Arab World, including Egypt, the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, and Bahrain since 1982. The total amount so collected could be as much as \$500,000, according to sources.

According to a police source, the suspect has a past record of similar activities, including arms dealings, and was expelled from Egypt in 1989. He is believed to be the leader

of a six-member gang, the police source said.

All members of the gang are currently in custody and formally charged with "embezzlement, forgery, and impersonation," the source added. If found guilty, the defendants could be sentenced from 10 to 20 years in prison.

All the six were employees of the advertising agency, which operates out of Marka on the outskirts of Amman.

Abbadi told Tuesday's press conference that the popular committee, which was established in mid-1988, had collected a total of JD 3.5 million from Jordanian citizens and that the amount had already been sent to the families of martyrs and wounded in the 30-month-old intifada in the occupied territories. He said the committee did not have any branches or officials abroad.

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Al Rashid leads ACC handball tourney

By Munem Fakhrouri
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Al Salt club defeated Jordan's Al Ahli Club 27-24 in a match played within the framework of the Arab Cooperation Council handball championship which started in Amman Tuesday under the patronage of His Majesty King Hussein.

In another match played Wednesday Iraq's Al Rashid Club beat Egypt's Al Olympi Club 27-24.

With these results, Al Rashid Club leads team standings followed in the second place by Al Olympi and Al Salt in the third place. Al Ahli trails in fourth place.

The matches which are taking place at the Palace of Sports at Al Hussein Youth City, was opened Tuesday by Youth Minister Ibrahim Al Ghababsheh who deputized for His Majesty.

Al Ghababsheh Wednesday received heads of delegations taking part in the championship.

Ghababsheh said that these meetings between the Arab youth are a step towards achieving comprehensive Arab unity and commended efforts exerted by Al Salt Club, the host, to make the championship a success.

Detroit Pistons take command of NBA finals

PORTLAND, Oregon (AP) — The Detroit Pistons took command of the NBA finals Tuesday night, after Isiah Thomas took command in the second half.

Thomas, whose bank shot with 26 seconds remaining enabled the defending champions to hold off a desperate rally and beat the Portland Trail Blazers 112-109 for a 3-1 lead in the best-of-7 National Basketball Association (NBA) championship series.

The outcome was in doubt for just a few seconds after the game. Danny Young's 3-point attempt went in, but was ruled after the buzzer after a discussion by the officials.

The victory, Detroit's second straight in Portland after temporarily losing the homecourt advantage in game 2, put the Pistons in a commanding position to win their second consecutive NBA title. That feat has been accomplished previously only by the Minneapolis-Los Angeles Lakers and the Boston Celtics.

Two of the remaining three games in the best-of-7 series are scheduled for the Palace of Auburn Hills, Michigan, where the Pistons are 10-1 in the playoffs this season and 18-2 in postseason play the last two years. Game 5 will be in Portland Thursday night.

Thomas scored 32 points in the game, 22 in the third quarter to seemingly put the Pistons in control as they extended a five-point halftime lead to 81-65 with 2:16 left.

Portland, which got 34 points from Clyde Drexler and 33 from Jerome Kersey, respon-

Spain, Uruguay draw 0-0

STEVE KITTLEUDINE (R) — Uruguay's Ruben Sosa Wednesday spoiled one of the best performances of the World Cup so far by missing a penalty that would have given Uruguay victory over Spain instead of a 0-0 draw. The exciting Group E clash, bringing together the last two teams to get into World Cup action, ended goalless despite great efforts by Sosa and Uruguayan captain Enzo Francescoli.

The pair mesmerized the Spanish defence with jinking runs and silky skills, but just could not convert them into goals.

Sosa, who had done everything right for more than an hour, blew all his efforts away in the 72nd minute.

Nelson Gutierrez's header from a corner beat Spanish goalkeeper Andoni Zubizarreta but Francisco Villanueva handled to prevent a goal.

Sosa stepped up to the penalty spot for what should have been an easy winner, but instead blasted the ball way over the bar. He held his head in his hands in anguish.

The result left both teams still well in contention in Group E, the tightest-balance opening round group which also includes Belgium and South Korea.

Four players, two from each side, were booked in a physical and lively, but rarely dirty encounter.

After the match Sosa said: "We pressurized Spain and it's good that we have one point but we could have had two. It was a bad penalty. I hit the ball too hard."

Spanish trainer Luis Suarez said: "It was 0-0 but it wasn't a bad match. At least we've come out of it with one point."

After a hesitant opening few minutes, both teams began building up what became a fast, furious and tightly-fought contest.

Spain held the initiative through most of the first half, breaking quickly from defence with long, raking passes.

But the Uruguayan defence held firm and the Spaniards were unable to convert the few clear chances they created.

In the second half, the Uruguayans dominated clearly. Over the game as a whole, they had 10 shots on goal to their opponents' three, and earned six corners to Spain's one.

"We've lost a very good opportunity to beat Spain," Uruguayan manager Oscar Tabarez said. "Now we'll have to go all out to beat Belgium and South Korea."

"The first match is always difficult, especially when it's between two countries with such rich traditions as these two," he noted.

Egyptian performance triggers jubilation in Arab countries

KUWAIT (Agencies) — Jubilation swept through the Arab Gulf countries Tuesday over Egypt's 1-1 draw with World Cup soccer favourite the Netherlands.

In Kuwait, newspapers termed it a "success," and the news captured frontpage headlines alongside major domestic political developments.

"Congratulations to the Arabs," splashed the daily newspaper Al Anbaa, while the headline of the daily Al Qabas read: "The Egyptians Have Honoured Arab Soccer."

"Spirited and courageous Egypt humbled mighty Netherlands," wrote the English-language newspaper Kuwait Times.

In neighbouring United Arab Emirates (UAE) large groups of Egyptian workers took to streets in tumultuous car parades.

The UAE papers joined the chorus of enchanted Arabs, with the state-run Al Itihad lauding the Egyptian performance a "marvellous result," and a "shock to the Netherlands."

The Sharjah-based Al Khaleej said the Egyptians "played the game of their life."

In Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Qatar, Oman and elsewhere in the Arabian Peninsula, local residents stayed up with families of Egyptian workers, to celebrate.

"People here, Arab hosts and Egyptian guests alike, are thirsty for victory, and kind of victory, to offset the mental depression created by political, economic and military failures," commented Hisham Al Ashgar, an Egyptian agricultural engineer living in Bahrain.

"The outcome of the Egypt-Holland match is a perfect diversion," he said.

In Egypt, Cairo's skies lit up with fireworks as thousands of Egyptians poured into the streets, chanting and hunking car horns in jubilation over their team's 1-1 draw with the Netherlands in its first World Cup game.

Piling into open trucks in the early hours Wednesday, they beat tambourines, waved Egyptian flags and shouted, "God is Great."

Others hung out of car windows, stripped off T-shirts and let them fly in the breeze, while some jumped onto horse-drawn carts and cheered their way through the city.

Cairo's streets had been deserted while the Egyptian team — the first to qualify for the World Cup finals in 36 years — played the Netherlands. But minutes after the match finished, the city burst into life.

"Egypt is not going to sleep tonight," said a traffic policeman watching the crowds block one of Cairo's main bridges.

"My heart almost stopped

when the Dutch scored," said Attiya Abdo Attiya, who travelled from the Nile Delta town of Mansoura to Cairo especially to watch the match.

"I have been feeling absolute terror since the morning and have been living on the hopes that Egypt would draw in this match," he said. "Our team played like men. We congratulate them with all our hearts for making us proud."

His Majesty King Hussein sent a telegram congratulating Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak on the team's performance.

Mubarak, who told the team before their departure to Italy to play as though they were on a patriotic mission, sent them a telegram of thanks after the match.

"You captured the admiration of your people who followed with care and interest your efforts to make Egypt's name stand up high in the World Cup matches... you were a picture of pride for Egypt's youth," Mubarak said.

Tourists joined Egyptians in the celebrations. Some of Cairo's taxi drivers — notorious for bullying customers — gave their passengers free rides.

"Thank God. Thank God," said one young man. "It is true we drew with Holland, but with that match we consider ourselves to have won the World Cup."

The state-owned Cairo Television which broadcast the game live, interrupted its regular programme several times to air Mubarak's congratulations.

The television kept replaying the Egyptian goal almost every five minutes for most of the remaining programme for the night accompanied by joyful national songs. It also repeatedly replayed Egyptian attacks on the Dutch.

Experts and ordinary spectators agreed that Egyptian players outplayed those of the Dutch, including stars like Roud Gullit and Marco Van Basten and deserved a win instead of the 1-1 draw.

Egyptian coach Mahmoud Al Gohary was shown on the television screen minutes after the game ended saying from Palermo: "I dedicate the result to Egypt and the people of Egypt and... until next match."

Al Gohary said however "we have a long way to go. There is England and there is Ireland." He was referring to the other teams in Group F.

Mahmoud Sayess, the coach of Egypt's largest and most strongest soccer club, Ahli, said the Egyptians were giants and played according to a good and well-balanced plan.

"They were close to win. They missed three sure chances and singled out Hossam Hassan, Gamal Abdul Hamid and Ahmed Al Kas," Sayess said in a telephone interview with the Associated Press.

"They (Egyptian players) were able to reduce the danger of the Dutch trio, Gullit, Van Basten and (Frank) Rijkaard," he said.

Hussein Madkour, a former secretary-general of the Egyptian Soccer Federation and a television commentator, said "our team should have won. It was the better all the time."

Hani Mustafa, the coach of Egypt's second national soccer team, the Olympics, said "Egypt could have topped its group if the players were able to make use of the good chances that were open to them."

A television announcer commenting on the game from Palermo shouted "It is heaven justice," when Magdi Abdul Ghani scored from a penalty kick.

In Palermo, Dutch captain

Roud Gullit admitted his team must improve if they are to avoid an early departure from the World Cup following Tuesday's 1-1 draw with unfancied Egypt.

"We have to rediscover our strength. We have to do something more because if we go on this way we will be eliminated," Gullit said.

The Dutch, European champions two years ago and among the favourites in Italy, never got into their stride against the fast and skilful Egyptians, who would have emulated Cameroon's sensational win over Argentina had they shown more composure in front of goal.

"We've been playing very badly for two years... there are players (in the Dutch team) who don't have trust in others," Gullit said.

The Dutch had looked set for an undesired win through substitute Wim Kieft's deflected 58th minute goal. But Magdi Abdul Ghani equalised from the penalty spot seven minutes from the end after Ronald Koeman brought down Hossam Hassan.

The European champions had a fraught run-up to this tournament. Coach Thijs Libregts was sacked less than three months ago, and it was feared Gullit, the team's pivotal player, would not be fit after a year plagued with knee problems.

The dreaded Gullit failed to make any real impact on Tuesday in only his third full appearance for over a year and admitted he found it hard to regain his touch in a struggling team.

Germans prepare ordeal for UAE

MILAN (R) — West Germany, looking potential champions when they crushed Yugoslavia 4-1 last Sunday, will subject the unrated United Arab Emirates (UAE) to a World Cup ordeal Friday.

The UAE, 1,000-1 outsiders for the title when the draw was made last December, anticipated the worst long before they arrived in Italy when their coach said a 6-0 defeat by West Germany was possible.

The West Germans played with such command against the Yugoslavs that a drubbing looks unavoidable for the UAE, who were defeated 2-0 by Colombia in their opening Group D match last Saturday.

"We are not putting any pressure on the players. Nobody will ask them to beat the Germans, but in football everything is possible — even the UAE beating Germany," the UAE's Brazilian coach Carlos Alberto Pereira said, summoning a note of optimism.

"We just want to disturb the German team as much as we can to make them at least sweat a bit. I told the players 'show what you can do, that's all'."

The UAE will have taken more than a crumb of comfort from Egypt's feat Tuesday when they held the Netherlands, European champions and among the World Cup favourites, to a 1-1 draw in

Palermo.

West Germany have had their problems with teams in past World Cups, drawing 0-0 with Tunisia in 1978 and sensationally, losing 2-1 to Algeria in 1982.

But the 1990 West Germans, driven by the enthusiasm of Sunday's two-goal hero Lothar Matthaeus, are determined mood and team chief Franz Beckenbauer has promised an all-out offensive.

"We have put them under pressure and disturb them. We've got to do that against the Emirates almost better than against the Yugoslavs," he said.

Beckenbauer, guarded about his selection before the Yugoslavia match, found the first spirited performance so convincing that he immediately announced an identical line-up against the UAE.

"They have a different game. They must not be underestimated," he said. "They keep the game in their half for a long period. We are not accustomed to that kind of game, so we will have to adapt."

Spanish trainer Luis Suarez said: "It was 0-0 but it wasn't a bad match. At least we've come out of it with one point."

After a hesitant opening few minutes, both teams began building up what became a fast, furious and tightly-fought contest.

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GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF
"TAMMAM HUSSEIN"
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THE MIND OF THE EXPERT

Both vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
A 7 9 9 2
K 3 2
Q K 10
Q 8 5

EAST
A 4
Q 10 9 8 6 4
Q 9 6 3 2
A K 9 6 5 4 3 2

SOUTH
K Q 7 6 5
A 7 5
A 7
10 7

The bidding:
South West North East
1 ♠ 5 ♠ 5 ♠ Pass
6 ♠ Pass Pass Pass

Opening lead: 7
We are indebted for this hand to Bridge Today (six issues per year, \$21). Available from Bridge Today, 18 Village View Blvd., Ballston Lake, N.Y. 12019. It was played during a charity tournament in Montreal.

Sitting West was Bob Richman, formerly of Cleveland and now one of the top players in Australia. Never shy in the bidding, he made a full-blooded five-club preempt over South's one-spade opening bid. When the auction got back to him it was at six spades and that became the final contract.

Now the mind of the expert took over. Richman was sure that, given South's confident slam bid, two rounds of clubs would "never" go through. It seemed the best chance to defeat six spades lay in scoring one club trick and a heart ruff. But to manage that East would have to have an entry. Since it was surely not a fast entry, what then?

Richman had seen this situation many times in newspaper columns and books. He would undertake his ace-king of clubs to suggest the heart return, he carefully selected the nine of clubs as his opening lead.

Declarer, Martin Caley of Montreal, carefully played dummy's queen to the first trick and was only mildly surprised when it held the trick. He drew trumps in two rounds, ending in dummy, ran the jack of diamonds, crossed to the ace of diamonds and reentered dummy with a trump to take a club discard on the king of diamonds. Declarer claimed his slam, conceding only a heart trick. Easy.

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Gorbachev proposes loose federation of sovereign states

MOSCOW (AP) — Faced with a splintering empire, President Mikhail Gorbachev has proposed restructuring the Soviet Union into a loose federation of sovereign states, officials said.

Gorbachev made the proposal Tuesday, the same day that the parliament of the huge Russian Republic approved a resolution declaring that its laws would take priority over national ones.

After refusing for weeks to negotiate with the breakaway Baltic republics unless they agreed to abide by the Soviet constitution, Gorbachev met Tuesday with the presidents of Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia.

Lithuanian President Vytautas Landsbergis hinted that the Kremlin might soon end the embargo against his republic.

The unofficial Interfax news agency Wednesday quoted Soviet Prime Minister Nikolai I. Ryzhkov, who also attended the session, as saying: "After yesterday evening's discussion with Lithuanian representatives, I can say that the solution of the Lithuanian question is finally getting off the ground."

Ryzhkov, speaking to reporters, indicated the Kremlin was prepared to lift its economic embargo of Lithuania as soon as talks began.

"We told Landsbergis that if our proposal is accepted, then we'll sit down at the negotiation table and then we can make the

decision on the normalising of our economic relations," he said.

The Kremlin imposed a partial economic blockade on Lithuania in mid-April, cutting off supplies of fuel and other raw materials. Lithuania declared independence on March 11, and Estonia and Latvia soon followed suit with measures announcing a transition period to independence.

Ryzhkov was scheduled to meet with Lithuanian Prime Minister Kazimiera Prunskiene to discuss the embargo.

Latvian President Anatoly Gorbunov said Gorbachev had made a concrete offer to enter negotiations.

"This is an absolute recognition of the legality of our declaration" that Latvia has begun a transition to independence, Gorbunov claimed. "This is a new thing."

Gorbachev met with the Baltic presidents after a session with the federation council, an advisory body consisting of the presidents of all 15 Soviet republics.

Gorbachev said he had summoned the council to begin work on "realising the key idea of deeply re-forming our federation."

Gorbachev proposed that the country's republics agree on a new, looser union of "sovereign states," officials said after the meeting.

The 59-year-old Soviet leader has pledged repeatedly since last fall to work out a new union treaty. Some reformers would like to transform the Soviet Union into a confederation of independent countries, like the European Community or the British Commonwealth.

Tuesday's proposal for a union of "sovereign states" is the closest that Gorbachev has come to publicly considering such a radical change.

The Russian resolution asserting that republics' autonomy has no immediate legal effect. But if it takes hold, it could bring a dramatic reduction in Gorbachev's authority. Russia has 52 per cent of the Soviet Union's population and three-quarters of its land mass.

The Russian Congress of People's Deputies, under the leadership of radical reformer Boris Yeltsin, voted 907-13 to pass the declaration. The statement was weaker than originally proposed, because it says Russia's sovereignty — and the priority of its laws over national ones — will be worked out in a new Russian constitution and union treaty.

Any new treaty that keeps the Soviet Union a single country

would be likely to shift substantial powers from the federal government to the republics. Gorbachev has promised repeatedly that a new federation structure would solve the republics' grievances, but independence activists dismissed his assurances in the past for lack of a concrete proposal.

Some reformers have suggested that central government retain control over foreign policy and defence. Others have added control of some industries, over all economic planning and other duties to the list.

Meanwhile, search and rescue groups in the troubled Central Asian Republic of Kirghizia have revised to 143 the death toll from this month's ethnic violence, TASS reported Wednesday.

The body count was nine more than that listed Tuesday by the Kirghiz Interior Ministry and reported by TASS, the official Soviet news agency.

Meanwhile, a top Interior Ministry official said that about 24,000 people have been arrested and about 4,000 firearms and 500 explosive devices seized in two years of civil strife — primarily ethnic clashes.

No new violence was reported Tuesday in the region near the border city of Osh in Western Kirghizia, where clashes between ethnic Kirghiz and Uzbeks began earlier this month over a land dispute.

Bucharest police clash with protesters

BUCHAREST (R) — Police and anti-government demonstrators hurling stones fought running battles in central Bucharest side streets Wednesday.

Demonstrators overturned an empty police minivan and set it on fire in a street alongside Bucharest's Institute of Architecture.

The clashes, in which demonstrators and blue-helmeted police with truncheons surged up and down side streets, flared 10 hours after police broke up a marathon anti-government protest before dawn.

Reuter correspondents saw police take several injured demonstrators and policemen from the area.

Several dozen police officers and protesters were involved in the clashes.

The nearby demonstration zone cleared by police earlier — a 400-metre stretch of Magheru Boulevard blocked by buses and trucks — was calm.

The clashes died down after about an hour, with some 300 demonstrators standing eyeball to eyeball with police in a side street off Magheru Boulevard.

A government statement said police had detained 263 people in what one witness called a "swift, surgical operation" before dawn.

The plate glass doors of the 22-storey Intercontinental Hotel were smashed when demonstrators ran into the building and police chased them.

Police kept the Magheru Boulevard and adjacent University Square sealed off with trucks and buses.

Several hundred people gathered outside the barriers, sporadically shouting slogans against the police and the government.

Scuffles broke out when about 2,000 workers from a state-owned machinery plant marched to the nearby University Architecture Institute to support the police action.

Students barricaded themselves inside the building, and at least three windows were smashed.

Tamil rebels kill 90 Sri Lankan policemen

COLOMBO (R) — Tamil separatist guerrillas shot dead 90 Sinhalese policemen they abducted Monday after capturing police stations in Sri Lanka's eastern districts, military sources said Wednesday.

The sources said the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam Wednesday ignored a ceasefire agreement due to come into effect at noon and resumed attacks on three army camps in the east.

"Our forces are fighting back backed by helicopters," a military officer said.

The ceasefire agreement followed talks between a senior minister, Shalini Hameed, and Tiger leaders in their stronghold in northern Jaffna.

"It was agreed that by 12 noon tomorrow, Wednesday, all acts of violence must have stopped," a statement issued after Justice Minister Hameed returned to Colombo Tuesday night said.

As the deadline approached, military sources said the Tigers intensified attacks on the army camps at Kalavanthikudi, Kiran and Kalmunai in the eastern Batticaloa and Amparai districts.

The sources said 3,000 troop reinforcements were rushed to the eastern districts Tuesday night.

The island newspapers, quoting a police sub-inspector who escaped from the Tigers, said that many of the captured policemen had been fined up and shot.

The policemen said he heard the death cries of his colleagues as he plunged into the jungle and escaped.

Unconfirmed reports said 117 policemen out of 600 abducted by the rebels Monday were killed. Military sources said in addition to the captured policemen killed, at least 25 other policemen and soldiers died in the fighting in the past two days. They said at least 25 Tigers were killed and 100 were wounded in the battles.

The fighting shattered an uneasy truce between the Tigers and the government, which opened peace talks with the rebels last May, and now threatens another civil war.

The Tigers have been fighting for almost 20 years for a separate state for minority Tamils in the north and east, but had indicated they were ready to abandon armed struggle and accept a political solution based on elections to a regional council with wide-ranging local powers.

The policemen were captured after Tiger rebels attacked 10 police stations in Batticaloa and Amparai districts.

Military sources said the rebels seized 625 small arms, 70,000 rounds of ammunition and vehicles from the stations. They took 25 million rupees (\$625,000) kept in the Batticaloa station by two state banks in the area.

Batticaloa was one of the first stations to be captured by the rebels Monday.

The sources said that Tuesday the rebels overran three more police stations at Kankasanturai, Point Pedro and Valvettilai in the northern Jaffna peninsula and another at Murunkan in the north-western Mannar district.

Deputy Defence Minister Ranjan Wijeratne Tuesday told parliament the government would take tough action against the guerrillas if they did not stop the attacks.

"We will flatten the LTTE (Tigers)," he said.

Menem's wife leaves residence

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina (AP) — First lady Zulema Menem, facing eviction from the presidential residence, has moved out voluntarily, a government spokesman confirmed.

President Carlos Menem wished his wife to leave the residence and this was accomplished without any kind of violence due to the fact that she already had left before his decision was communicated," to her, said the presidential legal secretary, Raul Granillo Ocampo. The secretary said Mrs. Menem, engaged in a highly publicised marital tiff with her husband, left the 65-acre (26-hectare) residence in suburban Olivos Monday night. Air Force Brigadier Andres Antonietti, chief of the presidential military staff, went to the residence on instructions from Menem to persuade the first lady to leave, "and found that she already had left," Granillo Ocampo said. A housekeeper at the residence, identified only as Olga, told reporters that Mrs. Menem had moved, with the couple's 21-year-old son Carlos and 19-year-old daughter Zulema, to an apartment she owns in downtown Buenos Aires. Reports of marital strife between Menem and his wife became front page news when Menem, 59, moved out of the presidential residence on May 8 amid reports that he would seek a legal separation or divorce from his wife of 24 years.

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Another suspected guerrilla arrested in E. Germany

EAST BERLIN (R) — A suspected West German leftist guerrilla wanted for murder and kidnapping in the 1970s was captured in East Germany Wednesday, the second such arrest in a week.

Interior Minister Peter-Michael Diestel said in a statement that Inge Viett, wanted by West Germany for 15 years, was arrested in Magdeburg overnight by criminal police working in conjunction with West German security investigators.

Viett, 46, is suspected of involvement in the Red Army Faction (RAF) guerrilla group's murder of a senior West Berlin judge in 1974 and the kidnapping of the city's Christian Democratic (CDU) leader in 1975.

RAF suspect Susanne Albrecht, wanted in connection with the execution-style slaying of a Frankfurt banker in 1977, was arrested in East Berlin a week ago after living for 10 years under cover as an East German citizen.

Diestel said the arrest of Viett, like that of Albrecht, was a coup for deepening East-West German security cooperation as the countries approach unification after the 1989 collapse of East Germany's Communist dictatorship.

His statement, carried by the East German News Agency ADN, gave no further details of Viett's arrest.

Viett and Albrecht, 39, had long been on Bonn's most-wanted list of RAF commandos from the group's heyday in the 1970s, when it rattled public life with a campaign of murder and bombings against "establishment" targets.

The West German magazine Der Spiegel said this week that Bonn believed several long-sought RAF guerrillas, including Viett, had found refuge in East Germany with the connivance of its former Stalinist security police.

Virtually all of the RAF's 1970s guerrillas were captured by the early 1980s and sentenced to long prison terms for murder, bombing, kidnapping and armed robbery.

The group killed several leading businessmen and a senior diplomat in the 1980s but has been largely inactive in recent years due to investigative breakthroughs and improved security precautions for public figures.

A Dresden newspaper Tuesday reported that another fugitive RAF guerrilla, Silke Maier-Witt, had been living in East Germany since 1983, most of the time with the knowledge of the old Communist authorities.

Diestel said last week that Albrecht, 39, had entered East Germany in 1980 under a false name and lived there under the protection of the Stasi security police.

In Wiesbaden, the West German Federal Crime Office (BKA) said Viett, unarmed and offering no resistance, was arrested by East German police around midnight.

6 top Cambodia aides held for bid to form rival party

BANGKOK (AP) — A cabinet minister is among at least six senior government officials and army officers arrested and accused of trying to form a rival political party, a U.S. human rights group said in a statement Tuesday.

Asia Watch said the officials were arrested between May 21 and May 25 on suspicion of trying to set up the Kanapak Sangkum Pracheatpatey Serai, or Liberal Social Democratic Party.

Cambodia's one-party Communist administration was installed by a Vietnamese invasion of the country in late 1978. It continues to fight three guerrilla groups backed by China and other countries.

The statement, dated Tuesday and seen in Bangkok Wednesday, said the executive director of Asia Watch, Sidney Jones, was in the Cambodian capital of Phnom Penh at the time of the arrests.

"Up until now political arrests have been largely linked to the resistance factions based in Thailand," Jones was quoted as saying. "These men were apparently trying to take advantage of a changed political climate

and move Cambodia towards a multiparty system. It looks like they may have jumped the gun."

The statement identified those arrested as Ung Phan, the minister of transport, communications and posts; Nou Saing Khan, the chief of planning and statistics at the same ministry; Kan Man, the deputy director of the European and American Bureau of the Foreign Ministry; Thun Saray, acting director of the Institute of Sociology; Col. On Sum of the Research Department of the Defence Ministry; and another officer, Lt-Col. Kay Mathury.

Several hundred people gathered outside the barriers, sporadically shouting slogans against the police and the government.

Scuffles broke out when about 2,000 workers from a state-owned machinery plant marched to the nearby University Architecture Institute to support the police action.

Students barricaded themselves inside the building, and at least three windows were smashed.

The plate glass doors of the 22-storey Intercontinental Hotel were smashed when demonstrators ran into the building and police chased them.

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